

The cover features a detailed illustration. In the background on the left is a large, multi-masted sailing ship with white sails. In the center and right is a modern U.S. Navy ship, possibly a destroyer, with a complex superstructure and gun turrets. Two biplanes, marked with 'NAVY' and the number '410', are flying in front of the modern ship. In the foreground, the dark, conical hull of a submarine is visible, cutting through the water. The sky is a mix of orange and blue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

THE AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

April 1998

\$2.50

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Senators, Show
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PAGE 24

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U.S. Navy
at 200

By Adm. Elmo Zumwalt

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

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The Magazine for a Strong America

April 1998

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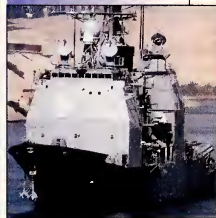
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THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.8 million members. These wartime veterans, working through nearly 15,000 community-level Posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.



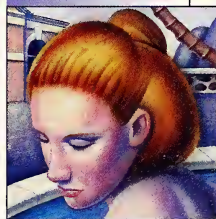
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National Commander

Anthony G. Jordan

Editor

Joe Stuteville

Art Director

Simon Smith

Managing Editor

Robert C. Imier

Assistant Editors

Trent D. McMeelley

Julie A. Rhoad

Layne Cameron

Staff Photographer

John Simon

Editorial Administrator

Joan L. Berzins

Publication Design

Caron M. Morales

General Administration

Patricia Marschand

Robyn Black

Production Manager

Melissa Candler

Production Assistant

Cindy G. Thompson

Advertising Manager

Diane Andretti

Advertising Assistants

Cathy Frakes

Susan M. Bader

The American Legion Magazine
P.O. Box 7068
Indianapolis, IN 46207

Publisher's Representatives

Fox Associates, Inc.
Chicago: 612-644-3888
New York: 212-725-2106
Los Angeles: 310-841-0280
Detroit: 248-543-0068
Atlanta: 404-252-0968
San Francisco: 415-989-5804

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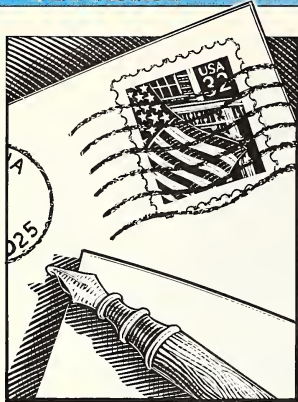
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Sky Word

It has been said that no news is good news. That's why I enjoyed the recent aviation safety interview with J. Randolph Babbitt [February]. As he said, it is "incredibly safe" to fly.

While the U.S. aviation system is the world's safest, the FAA's goal is to reduce the U.S. fatal accident rate 80 percent by 2007. We're adding controllers, safety inspectors and maintenance technicians. We're shining a powerful safety spotlight on the newest carriers and raising aviation security levels. We're creating an early warning system to spot safety trends and fielding new display screens and computers. We are also taking air navigation into the satellite age by using global-positioning satellites to increase safety and expand capacity.

Last year, more than 600 million people safely flew more than 600 billion miles in this country. With the extensive improvements the FAA and the aviation community are making, I am confident the FAA will meet the nation's expectations as air travel enters the 21st century.

*Eliot B. Brenner
Assistant Administrator for
Public Affairs, FAA*

FROM the tenor of the two articles on airline safety, it appears that both Mary Fackler Schiavo and J. Randolph Babbitt are waxing hyperbolic on opposite sides of the fence. Common sense dictates that the airlines have a much greater interest in safety than admitted by Schiavo, if for no

other reason than the fact that every crash costs them millions of dollars in lost revenue from turned-off fliers. It follows that the carriers are motivated to do a much better job than Uncle—whose pawns have little to lose or gain from a botched inspection.

Babbitt deserves to be taken to the task for his flip quotation of crash fatality statistics: "You're significantly safer five miles above the earth than behind the wheel...more have been killed on America's highways every three months than have been killed in commercial aviation since 1914." These statistics are meaningless without a tabulation of the number of fliers in the air as compared with the number of people on the road.

*Paul G. Wolber
Hagerstown, Maryland*

Tet Reflections

THE observations by Al Santoli on the Vietnam War in the January issue ["Happy New Year...From Hanoi"] are generally true but old hat. What commentators such as Santoli

fail to realize, or at least articulate, is that the United States could not afford, from a financial standpoint, to "win" this war.

Suppose we had preserved an independent Republic of South Vietnam? We would have had the cost of maintaining a large military force in-country far into the future, both to secure the borders and to control internal insurgency. The cost would easily have been in the billions. The South Vietnamese would soon be making electronic gadgets and funny little cars to sell here. Instead, Vietnam currently costs us nothing and offers many financial opportunities.

*D. J. Fitzgerald
Lake George, New York*

AS a World War II veteran, I was disgusted with the reporting on the Vietnam War by Cronkite, Huntley and Wallace. If the press reported on World War II the way these yahoos did on the Vietnam War, we would have lost that war.

*Gerald Green
Tempe, Arizona*

THE AMERICAN CENTURY

IN September, THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE will publish a special issue celebrating The American Century. We invite you, the members of The American Legion family, to participate.

We'd like your view, in 200 words or less, of our nation's most significant contribution during the 20th century. You could address a range of subjects, such as invention, technology or social/political activism. You could single out influential Americans or events that shaped the century.

Only letters postmarked before May 30 will be considered. Those selected for publication will be subject to editing for clarity and brevity. As many of the best letters as space allows will be published, and writers having their selected will be paid \$50.

The American Century
THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE
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IF the Vietnam War was lost after the Tet Offensive, then surely World War II in Europe was lost after the Battle of the Bulge. The similarities are obvious. Both battles were desperate counterattacks by a losing opponent launched during the holiday season and both resulted in devastating losses to the enemy. The only difference was the false portrayal by the media of the Tet Offensive as a communist victory and the spineless reaction of our civilian leaders.

*Tony Cook
Belleville, Illinois*

MY experience during my service in Vietnam caused me to become a non-believer in the American news media for exactly the type of reporting described by Al Santoli. Shortly after Tet, *Time* magazine reported Da Nang as being overrun by the VC. I knew better. I lived in an apartment three blocks from the Da Nang hotel. Thanks to the excellent work by our forces, ARVN and the city police, VC never came close to overrunning the city. The city might have been infiltrated, but never

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*Terence O'Connell
Bar Harbor, Maine*

All Aces

SEVERAL of us here at Post 14 read "Ace of Aces" in the February issue. We all know of Col. Billy Mitchell's part in making an Air Force in Coolidge's time and the troubles that followed him to end his military career. A little known fact as to how Rickenbacker became one of Mitchell's pilots follows:

Oct. 11, 1917: Mitchell lived on Marne near Chaumont [France]. He had acquired a Mercedes racing car. One day he had car trouble on a French road, and the Mercedes was quickly repaired by an Army driver who was passing by. When he found that the chauffeur had been a racing car driver back home, and wanted to fly, Mitchell helped him into the Air Service. (What the fledgling Air Corps was known as then.) His recruit was Eddie Rickenbacker, soon to become the leading American ace.

*Harold D. Macking
St. Petersburg, Florida*

Social Service

THE issue is not whether the system should be reformed (Big Issues, February), but whether the federal government should be in the retirement business at all. Social Security was born during the New Deal as a safety net for those who could not make ends meet. It was never intended to be a retirement program. Further, retirees have a moral obligation to their fellow citizens to save for their own retirement. There is no right to assume that retirement income will be provided at the expense of others.

Politicians of both parties could make one courageous step in the right direction by freezing payments at their current levels and restricting entitlements to only those retirees who are most in need. In addition, serious consideration should be given to making new workers ineligible for Social Security benefits. After these measures are taken, the debate should shift to

how best to abolish the program.

America was founded on the principles of individual responsibility and limited government. Ending Social Security as we know it would be a long overdue return to those principles.

*Larry Ruggiero
Alexandria, Virginia*

IN the February issue, I read with some confusion "Should Social Security Be Revamped?" I recently retired and am drawing Social Security. Both proponents and critics of the program defend their points of view by quoting the same source—the Social Security trustees—but give wildly opposite statistics of what this board is saying.

Sen. Gregg states that by 2012 the program will be paying out more than it takes in. Rep. DeFazio claims the program is financially sound until at least 2029. Whom are your readers to believe? Perhaps your reporting staff could research these two opposite views and report what the Social Security trustees are really saying.

*Roy C. Brady
College Park, Georgia*

Membership Drive

I WISH to commend THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE for publishing National Commander Anthony G. Jordan's article, "Changes in Our Time," in the January issue.

The article correctly states that having Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary as new members of NATO will materially increase our strength among the peace-loving democratic nations of Europe. We must be prepared for changes if we wish to see a strong Europe and equally strong America working together for peace and prosperity.

*Giovanni F. Marotta
Brooklyn, New York*

Dues Consideration

SHOULD the United States pay its United Nations dues [Big Issues, January]? I say no! Rep. Allen's analogy is stupid. This is not a matter of just owing one's dues to some organization. That's personal funds, not taxpayers' money. The dues owed to

the United Nations should not be paid until allowance has been made for all the costs by the U.S. peacekeeping operations.

We can't honor the insurance policies for our troops in Bosnia, but we can give away billions of taxpayers' dollars to support U.N. boondoggles? Rep. Snowbarger is correct in that "withholding payment is the only way to get [the United Nations] to respond to your concerns."

*J. Edward Knowles
Barrington, Illinois*

I TAKE exception to Rep. Thomas H. Allen comparing the United States as a member of the United Nations to a member of The American Legion. First of all, if that so-called member is in arrears on his dues, he is not a member, period. Allen needed to brighten the history of the United Nations by comparing it to an honorable organization. A more accurate comparison might lie with the Ku Klux Klan. They both have a terrible history with hardly a sprinkling of good.

*Gaylen W. Horinek
Atwood, Kansas*

Seeing Red

I THOUGHT the "Return of the Dragon" and "Bending Against the Wind" articles in the January magazine were excellent. However, I think the idea of China becoming democratic and profit-oriented is wishful thinking. The Red Chinese are, and always will be, die-hard communists. Their government will survive even if their people starve to death.

It looks to me like the Chinese are going to be preoccupied with economic developments for the coming years. With their economic expansion they will increase their military capabilities with high-tech and nuclear weapons.

What could the United States lose by refusing to trade with China? Why don't we deal with them the way they deal with us? I think the United States needs to consider China an enemy that will require the use of nuclear weapons to drive them back into their own territory, should they attempt to move into the free world.

*Lucian Simmons Jr.
Oil Trough, Arizona*

Political Favors

IN January's VetVoice, I read where Don Rajkowski is receiving that old tried and proven method called the "run-around, bureaucratic red tape tactics." I wonder, as we age and our individual medical needs get progressively greater, whether our elected officials really care. It used to be one didn't have to write, call or have political pull to have one's representative really tow the rope. But it seems of late if you're not politically connected or donate at least five figures, you're not going to receive the care you were promised.

Who looks after the GI? The down-trodden? The poor and sick? Recall the World War I veterans who had to march on Washington for their benefits? Will it take something like that to get their attention? Cannot the Legion exert pressure on Congress, VA or the responsible agency? I plan on writing both my senators and my congressman.

*Miyuki Ohshita
Mundelein, Illinois*

Bridge for Sale

IF Defense Secretary William Cohen for one moment really thinks he can integrate China into the world community in a "peaceful and cooperative" manner, I've got a bridge I'd like to sell him. China is preparing for war, and American business dollars are financing the effort. As bad as Richard Nixon was in other matters, he had a great grip on how the Asian mind works, and how patience and false promises are used as a facade.

*Jack H. Fenton
Reading, Massachusetts*

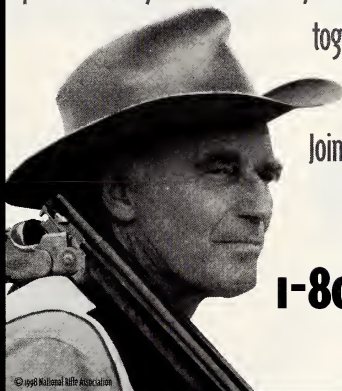
IF 115,000 troops are going to be cut from active-duty and reserve-component forces over the next five years, where are the replacements coming from for casualties suffered during a period of two major regional conflicts? If there is not a change soon, it might be too little, too late.

*Don Holmes
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Free Lunch

PERHAPS I have had my head buried in the sand for too long, but I did not realize that our active-

There's a cultural war raging across America. Anti-gun media, politicians, educators and thought police are storming your values. Assaulting your freedoms. Killing your self-confidence. If you don't believe it, then **why am I the only guy in Hollywood standing up for gun rights?** Fight back. Arm yourself with the courage of your convictions. Be proud of who you are and what you believe. Only then and only together can we defy them and defend our way of life. Join Me. Join Us. **Join Today.**



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duty servicemen and women had to pay for their meals while our elected public servants can enjoy free meals in the Capitol cafeterias.

All veterans should write their Congressmen and thank them for their benevolence in granting a 2.8-percent increase in military salaries. Can anyone recall the last time Congress voted themselves less than a 25-percent raise, plus additional perks and retirement benefits?

Veterans should initiate a referen-

dum requiring that the next deployment of American troops to a hostile environment consist of members of Congress.

They would be issued an AK-47, five rounds of blank ammo, Gucci loafers, Brooks Brothers uniforms and all the free MREs they could carry. That might teach those within the Beltway about taking benefits away from veterans.

*Harry M. Lewbart
Gibbsboro, New Jersey* □



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save lives among people with
high cholesterol and heart disease.

- Does my cholesterol level put me at risk?
- Should I consider adding ZOCOR to my diet and exercise plan?
- Could ZOCOR reduce my chances of having a heart attack?
- What are the side effects of ZOCOR?
- What type of results can I expect from ZOCOR?



Please read the next page for a summary of Prescribing Information and discuss it with your doctor.

ZOCOR is indicated as an addition to diet for patients with high cholesterol when diet and exercise are inadequate. (Results vary patient to patient.)

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ZOCOR. The cholesterol medicine that helps save lives.



ZOCOR® (SIMVASTATIN)

PLEASE READ THIS SUMMARY CAREFULLY, AND THEN ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT ZOCOR. NO ADVERTISEMENT CAN PROVIDE ALL THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO PRESCRIBE A DRUG. THIS ADVERTISEMENT DOES NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF CAREFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR DOCTOR. ONLY YOUR DOCTOR HAS THE TRAINING TO WEIGH THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF A PRESCRIPTION DRUG FOR YOU.

USES OF ZOCOR

ZOCOR is a prescription drug that is indicated as an addition to diet for many patients with high cholesterol when diet and exercise are inadequate. For patients with coronary heart disease (CHD) and high cholesterol, ZOCOR is indicated as an addition to diet to reduce the risk of death by reducing coronary death; to reduce the risk of heart attack; and to reduce the risk for undergoing cardiac procedures (coronary artery bypass grafting and percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty).

WHEN ZOCOR SHOULD NOT BE USED

Some people should not take ZOCOR. Discuss this with your doctor.

ZOCOR should not be used by patients who are allergic to any of its ingredients. In addition to the active ingredient simvastatin, each tablet contains the following inactive ingredients: cellulose, lactose, magnesium stearate, iron oxides, talc, titanium dioxide, and starch. Butylated hydroxyanisole is added as a preservative.

Patients with liver problems: ZOCOR should not be used by patients with active liver disease or repeated blood test results indicating possible liver problems. (See WARNINGS.)

Women who are or may become pregnant: Pregnant women should not take ZOCOR because it may harm the fetus. **Women of childbearing age should not take ZOCOR unless it is highly unlikely that they will become pregnant.** If a woman does become pregnant while on ZOCOR, she should stop taking the drug and talk to her doctor at once.

Women who are breast-feeding should not take ZOCOR.

WARNINGS

Liver: About 1% of patients who took ZOCOR in clinical trials developed elevated levels of some liver enzymes. Patients who had these increases usually had no symptoms. Elevated liver enzymes usually returned to normal levels when therapy with ZOCOR was stopped.

In the ZOCOR Survival Study, the number of patients with more than one liver enzyme level elevation to greater than 3 times the normal upper limit was no different between the ZOCOR and placebo groups. Only 8 patients on ZOCOR and 5 on placebo discontinued therapy due to elevated liver enzyme levels. Patients were started on 20 mg of ZOCOR, and one third had their dose raised to 40 mg.

Your doctor should perform routine blood tests to check these enzymes before you start treatment with ZOCOR, and periodically thereafter (for example, semiannually) for your first year of treatment or until one year after your last elevation in dose. If your enzyme levels increase, your doctor should order more frequent tests. If your liver enzyme levels remain unusually high, your doctor should discontinue your medication.

Tell your doctor about any liver disease you may have had in the past and about how much alcohol you consume. ZOCOR should be used with caution in patients who consume large amounts of alcohol.

Muscle: Tell your doctor right away if you experience any muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness at any time during treatment with ZOCOR, particularly if you have a fever or if you are generally not feeling well, so your doctor can decide if ZOCOR should be stopped. Some patients may have muscle pain or weakness while taking ZOCOR. Rarely, this can include muscle breakdown resulting in kidney damage. The risk of muscle breakdown is greater in patients taking certain other drugs along with ZOCOR, such as the lipid-lowering drug Lipid* (gemfibrozil), a fibrate; lipid-lowering doses of nicotinic acid (niacin); the antibiotics erythromycin and clarithromycin; netazodone; antifungal drugs that are azole derivatives, such as itraconazole and ketoconazole; or drugs that suppress the immune system (called immunosuppressive drugs, such as Sandimmune** [cyclosporine]). Therapy with ZOCOR should be temporarily interrupted if you are going to take an azole derivative antifungal medication, such as itraconazole. Patients using ZOCOR along with any of these other drugs should be carefully monitored by their physician. The risk of muscle breakdown is greater in patients with kidney problems or diabetes.

If you have conditions that can increase your risk of muscle breakdown, which in turn can cause kidney damage, your doctor should temporarily withhold or stop ZOCOR. Such conditions include severe infection, low blood pressure, major surgery, trauma, severe metabolic, endocrine and electrolyte disorders, and uncontrolled seizures. Also, since there are no known adverse consequences of briefly stopping therapy with ZOCOR, treatment should be stopped a few days before elective major surgery. Discuss this with your doctor, who can explain these conditions to you.

Because there are risks in combining therapy with ZOCOR with lipid-lowering doses of nicotinic acid (niacin) or with drugs that suppress the immune system, your doctor should carefully weigh the potential benefits and risks. He or she should also carefully monitor patients for any muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness, particularly during the initial months of therapy and if the dose of either drug is increased. Your doctor may also monitor the level of certain muscle enzymes in your body, but there is no assurance that such monitoring will prevent the occurrence of severe muscle disease.

PRECAUTIONS

Before starting treatment with ZOCOR, try to lower your cholesterol by other methods such as diet, exercise, and weight loss. Ask your doctor about how best to do this. Any other medical problems that can cause high cholesterol should also be treated.

ZOCOR® (simvastatin) is less effective in patients with the rare disorder known as homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia.

Drug Interactions: Because of possible serious drug interactions, it is important to tell your doctor what other drugs you are taking, including those obtained without a prescription.

ZOCOR can interact with Lipid, niacin, erythromycin, clarithromycin, nefazodone, certain antifungal drugs, and drugs that suppress the immune system (called immunosuppressive drugs, such as Sandimmune). (See WARNINGS, Muscle.)

Some patients taking lipid-lowering agents similar to ZOCOR and coumarin anticoagulants (a type of blood thinner) have experienced bleeding and/or increased blood clotting time. Patients taking these medicines should have their blood tested before starting therapy with ZOCOR and should continue to be monitored.

Endocrine (Hormone) Function: ZOCOR and other drugs in this class may affect the production of certain hormones. Caution should be exercised if a drug used to lower cholesterol levels is administered to patients also receiving other drugs (e.g., ketoconazole, spironolactone, cimetidine) that may decrease the levels or activity of hormones. If you are taking any such drugs, tell your doctor.

Central Nervous System Toxicity; Cancer, Mutations, Impairment of Fertility: Like most prescription drugs, ZOCOR was required to be tested on animals before it was marketed for human use. Often these tests were designed to achieve higher drug concentrations than humans achieve at recommended dosing. In some tests, the animals had damage to the nerves in the central nervous system. In studies of mice with high doses of ZOCOR, the likelihood of certain types of cancerous tumors increased. No evidence of mutations or of damage to genetic material has been seen. In one study with ZOCOR, there was decreased fertility in male rats.

Pregnancy: Pregnant women should not take ZOCOR because it may harm the fetus.

Safety in pregnancy has not been established. There have been no reports of birth defects in the children of patients taking ZOCOR. However, in studies with lipid-lowering agents similar to ZOCOR, there have been reports of birth defects of the skeleton and digestive system. Therefore, women of childbearing age should not take ZOCOR unless it is highly unlikely they will become pregnant. If a woman does become pregnant while taking ZOCOR, she should stop taking the drug and talk to her doctor at once. The active ingredient of ZOCOR did not cause birth defects in rats at 6 times the human dose or in rabbits at 4 times the human dose.

Nursing Mothers: Drugs taken by nursing mothers may be present in their breast milk. Because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants, a woman taking ZOCOR should not breast-feed. (See WHEN ZOCOR SHOULD NOT BE USED.)

Pediatric Use: ZOCOR is not recommended for children or patients under 20 years of age.

SIDE EFFECTS

Most patients tolerate treatment with ZOCOR well; however, like all prescription drugs, ZOCOR can cause side effects, and some of them can be serious. Side effects that do occur are usually mild and short-lived. Only your doctor can weigh the risks versus the benefits of any prescription drug. In clinical studies with ZOCOR, less than 1.5% of patients dropped out of the studies because of side effects. In a large, long-term study, patients taking ZOCOR experienced similar side effects to those patients taking placebo (sugar pills). Some of the side effects that have been reported with ZOCOR or related drugs are listed below. This list is not complete. Be sure to ask your doctor about side effects before taking ZOCOR and to discuss any side effects that occur.

Digestive System: Constipation, diarrhea, upset stomach, gas, heartburn, stomach pain/cramps, anorexia, loss of appetite, nausea, inflammation of the pancreas, hepatitis, jaundice, fatty changes in the liver, and, rarely, severe liver damage and failure, cirrhosis, and liver cancer.

Muscle, Skeletal: Muscle cramps, aches, pain, and weakness; joint pain; muscle breakdown.

Nervous System: Dizziness, headache, insomnia, tingling, memory loss, damage to nerves causing weakness and/or loss of sensation and/or abnormal sensations, anxiety, depression, tremor, loss of balance, psychic disturbances.

Skin: Rash, itching, hair loss, dryness, nodules, discoloration.

Eyes/Senses: Blurred vision, altered taste sensation, progression of cataracts, eye muscle weakness.

Hypersensitivity (Allergic) Reactions: On rare occasions, a wide variety of symptoms have been reported to occur either alone or together in groups (referred to as a syndrome) that appeared to be based on allergic-type reactions, which may rarely be fatal. These have included one or more of the following: a severe generalized reaction that may include shortness of breath, wheezing, digestive symptoms, and low blood pressure and even shock; an allergic reaction with swelling of the face, lips, tongue and/or throat with difficulty swallowing or breathing; symptoms mimicking lupus (a disorder in which a person's immune system may attack parts of his or her own body); severe muscle and blood vessel inflammation; bruises; various disorders of blood cells (that could result in anemia, infection, or blood clotting problems) or abnormal blood tests; inflamed or painful joints; hives; fatigue and weakness; sensitivity to sunlight; fever, chills; flushing; difficulty breathing; and severe skin disorders that vary from rash to a serious burn-like shedding of skin all over the body, including mucous membranes such as the lining of the mouth.

Other: Loss of sexual desire, breast enlargement, impotence.

Laboratory Tests: Liver function test abnormalities including elevated alkaline phosphatase and bilirubin; thyroid function abnormalities.

NOTE: This summary provides important information about ZOCOR. If you would like more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist to let you read the professional labeling and then discuss it with them.



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In the
showing
of our
colors,
JROTC cadets
are an
inspiration.



Pass the Salt, Please

LEGION family members believe The American Legion's programs for young people help make the America of the future freer, prouder and brighter. Basic to that is keeping more students in more schools. Let's think about what might be helpful.

If a program offered students hands-on participation it would offer challenge and stimulation to those who primarily learn by doing.

If it offered chances at responsibility, rewarded those who handled it well and mentored those who found their first tries daunting, it would offer high schoolers satisfactions that often elude too many.

If it offered those who are not necessarily top athletes the experience of teamwork and faithful practice, it would teach lessons in citizenship that often remain theoretical.

Well, there is such a program. Its instructors are role models who have proven that they put the public good before their own and who reflect a drug-free culture. In its structure, students find merit brings advancement and reward, not just grades.

I'm speaking of Junior ROTC, the high school intro to the college-level Reserve Officer Training Corps, which has historically provided the overwhelming majority of our officers. JROTC, in about 2,600 high schools, enrolls 230,498 students. Many Posts support it as service to young adults.

Just as the military isn't for everyone, JROTC might not be appropriate in every high school. It is something local Posts, where members know their neighbors well, might suggest. Certainly the JROTC mission, "To Motivate Young People to be Better Citizens," matches our ideals. However, Posts considering proposing JROTC should stress that it does not involve any military obligation, and combat skills are not taught.

What is taught shows good results. Cadets are much less likely to pose discipline problems than the average student. Their attendance rate is slightly higher (1.7 percent), as are grades and test scores, and their graduation rate significantly so (3.9 percent). JROTC helps keep kids in school.

Parents, teachers and participants give JROTC high marks in matters of self-esteem, physical fitness, communications

skills, leadership and appreciation of the military services. I would certainly second that. In February I had the honor to present the National Commander's Trophy to the winner of The American Legion Coca-Cola National Junior ROTC Drill Team Competition, hosted annually by the Department of Alabama. I saw 5,000 cadets representing 121 schools from 21 states, all young Americans to be proud of. The trophy went to the Enterprise Alabama High School drill team.

So we come into April, The American Legion's Children and Youth Month. We promote the wholesome development of our children year-round, but in April we go the extra mile. American Legion programs include the Child Welfare Foundation, Temporary Financial Assistance and activities that pose positive alternatives to drug abuse, teen suicide and running away.

While Junior ROTC is not a C&Y program, it benefits youth in many ways and provides, in its natural course, inspiration to us. As we ready our winning push for flag protection, as we gear up for the *Show Your Colors, America!* campaign, we note that a quarter of a million young Americans have chosen freely to show their colors by taking JROTC. Every time they go to class, put on the uniform, complete an assignment or finish an exercise, they are showing the colors. It is something they've chosen despite the effort involved and the occasional ridicule of those who accept the onus of leadership.

The idea is familiar from scripture: *Be ye the salt of the earth.* A little salt in a recipe makes everything better.

There are better than 260 million Americans, 80 percent of whom favor flag protection. We Legionnaires, to the number of 2.85 million, accept as duty the organization of the effort and as privilege the *Show Your Colors, America!* task. With the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion, we bring more than enough salt to the feast.

Smaller still is the percentage of JROTC cadets; its voluntary nature and the fact that it is offered in relatively few schools really, if generally, confirms polls indicating 80 percent support flag protection. Thus inspiration reinforces inspiration: The essential currents of American life run strong and deep and true. □

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SHOULD THE U.S. OFFER EDUCATIONAL TESTING?

Sen. Byron L. Dorgan (D-North Dakota)



YES

A young person who wants to go to college must take a national college entrance exam. In this country, we wait until kids are 17 or 18 before any national exam gives us some indication of their preparation for college.

As a parent of two young children in public school, I get report cards every six weeks that tell me how my children are doing in reading, writing and arithmetic. But I don't get a report card on how well that school is doing in educating my children. I think, as a taxpayer and a parent, it would be useful to get a report card about how well the school is doing.

The question is not whether we should have "federal" testing, because I don't think the federal government needs to do the testing. But I think we ought to have some kind of national entity that could allow us, as parents and taxpayers, to determine what we're getting for our education dollar and how well we're serving our children.

Today, no one in the country has any real basis for comparing how well one school does versus another or how well the schools in one state are doing versus another state. I think we'll improve our education system if we have measurement standards that give us that opportunity.

The proposal that Congress approved for voluntary national tests is basic and focused. It merely gives states the opportunity to participate in rigorous national tests, based on widely accepted standards for reading and math. The reading test would be given to fourth graders, and the math tests would be given to eighth graders.

U.S. business groups, including the National Chamber of Commerce, feel strongly that developing a national measurement of how our schools are doing is critical to competing in the global economy with an educated workforce.

The voluntary tests also will allow us to hold schools accountable. After all, students who master a watered-down curriculum might be straight "A" students who discover they've been short-changed when they begin to compete with graduates of more challenging schools.

School report cards will empower parents and taxpayers to hold teachers and schools accountable. We spend billions of dollars on public education. It is not only reasonable, but prudent, to measure whether that money is being spent wisely. □

Rep. Todd Tiahrt (R-Kansas)



NO

The great irony of this debate occurs when supporters of national testing are asked why they support national tests. They declare, "Because American students rank very low in academic skills in relation to other students around the world."

How do testing proponents know this? Well, because we already have national tests.

The oldest test is the National Assessment of Educational Progress, which is a national sampling of students in various subjects and is known as "The Nation's Report Card."

A similar test is the Third International Mathematics and Science Study. Both of these tests go above and beyond classroom tests that teachers create as well as state-sponsored testing. Instead of spending tens of millions of taxpayer dollars on another test, I support legislation requiring 90 percent of federal education dollars to be spent in the local classroom.

A real danger of yet another national test is what the children will be required (or not be required) to know. In 1994, the University of California at Los Angeles created national history standards. These were intended for use in schools across the nation. So far, so good.

Yet, Lynne Cheney, distinguished fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, notes these so-called standards for U.S. history never mention that George Washington was our first president or that James Madison was the father of our Constitution. The Ku Klux Klan, however, appears 17 times. Alexander Graham Bell, the Wright Brothers, Thomas Edison and Albert Einstein are never mentioned while the Great Depression is cited 25 times. I do not suggest that the faults of our history should be ignored. However, our nation's heroes and accomplishments should not be ignored, either. The people who put together these "standards" will undoubtedly attempt to influence any new standardized tests.

If national testing were the answer, our nation's education problems would have been solved long ago. We need to send dollars to the classrooms, demand stronger

academic basics at the local level and urge increased parental involvement in their children's education. These are the answers; we know the problems. Another one-size-fits-no-one, Washington-knows-best solution is no solution at all. □

Your Opinions Count, Too.

Senators and representatives are interested in constituent viewpoints. You may express your views by writing The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, or The Honorable (name), House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. You may call the U.S. Senate at (202) 224-3121; the House at (202) 225-3121.



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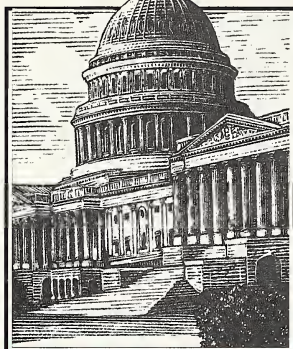
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THE FRANKLIN MINT



By Cliff Kincaid

Red Storm Rising?

EXPECT South Africa to be the next trouble spot to grab attention in Washington. Dr. William Lloyd Stearman, formerly of the National Security Council, warns that communists are moving to seize control, which could result in white citizens and foreign investment leaving.

Stearman has this advice for American businessmen: "Don't invest in South Africa unless you can get your money back in three or four years." After that, he warns, South Africa could be a full-fledged socialist state with all major industries nationalized.

Although Stearman served in Republican administrations, his concerns are getting more bipartisan attention now that South African President Nelson Mandela has given a tough speech attacking white-run opposition parties, media outlets and foreign companies. "This was a shot across the bow," Stearman says.

Stearman briefed President George Bush about Mandela's organization, the African National Congress, the black political movement whose presidency has now been turned over to Thabo Mbeki, the deputy president of the country. Stearman claims the ANC is communist-controlled and that Mbeki, who is expected to succeed Mandela as president in 1999, is a long-time member of the South African Communist Party—a fact swept under the rug by the media.

Amen Corner

WILLIAM Murray, son of atheist Madeline Murray O'Hare, says he was used by his mother as a principal in the 1960s lawsuit that removed prayer from the public schools. Murray, now a Christian, wants to bring prayer back. He hopes a constitutional amendment to restore school prayer will pass Congress this year.

If the amendment passes, however, his mother might not know it. Madeline Murray O'Hare disappeared in August of 1995. "I believe my mother died," says Murray, who also believes that she transferred millions of dollars out of the United States after her organization, American Atheists, disbanded. But he says he doesn't know what happened to his brother and one of his daughters—both disappeared with her.

Environmental Impact

DID the Pentagon get an exemption from the global warming treaty to protect national defense operations from crippling cuts in energy use? Not exactly. Instead, the office of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environmental Security Sherri Goodman tells THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE that the treaty exempts operations involving the United Nations.

The issue was supposed to be a big one at the global warming conference in Japan last December, where the United States negotiating team included military officials concerned because DoD is the largest energy user in government. Some reports suggested the United States sought a security waiver to protect defense activities.

Goodman insists that the treaty language will help sustain our readiness and global engagement, while at the same time retaining our commitment to responsible environmental stewardship. However, the actual language says that greenhouse gas emissions resulting from U.N.-related military operations "shall not be included in national totals, but reported separately."

Observers say this means that fossil fuel use for the U.N.-approved Bosnia mission would be exempt, but unilateral actions, such as the bombing of Libya or the invasion of Panama, would count against treaty limits.

James Sheehan of the Competitive Enterprise Institute says the effect would be additional pressure on the United States to pursue military objectives through the United Nations.

NATO Expansion

THE debate over expansion of NATO has gotten personal, with *New York Daily News* columnist Lars-Erik Nelson suggesting that money is driving the process to accept new members. "Expanding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is one way to keep the arms race alive and defense budgets high," he wrote. He cites the president of the U.S. Committee to Expand NATO, Bruce Jackson of Lockheed Martin, as "the big defense contractor and No. 1 campaign contributor in the defense industry."

But Jackson told THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE he was not amused by Nelson's attack. The bipartisan committee accepts no corporate money, he says, and its dozens of board members and advisers include only two with any connection to the defense industry. He accused Nelson and NATO expansion critics of ignoring the merits of the case.

Secrecy and Suspicion

FOR the first time in history, the CIA disclosed last year the total budget of the intelligence community—\$26.6 billion. But those who forced the disclosure want more detail. Their suspicion is that the CIA budget is hidden within the Pentagon.

Steven Aftergood, who runs the project on government secrecy for the Federation of American Scientists, says it is not his intention to compromise secrets. But he doesn't think disclosures of budget figures for individual agencies such as the CIA will damage national security. In fact, he thinks such disclosures fulfill *Article 1, Section 9* of the U.S. Constitution, which requires that an accounting of all public expenditures be published.

Aftergood thinks a Freedom of Information Act request and court battle could be necessary. He suspects the CIA spends about \$3 billion a year—under a line item in the Air Force budget labeled "selected activities." □

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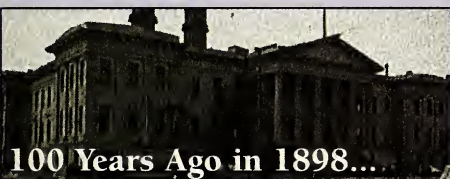
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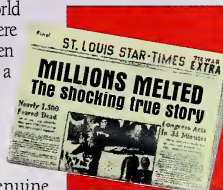
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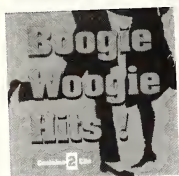
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PIE IN THE SKY OF IRAQ

MORE troops from all services are likely to be tapped for tours to the Persian Gulf region starting this fall, the boss of U.S. Central Command says.

Declaring, "There's enough of this pie to go around," Gen. Anthony Zinni announced plans to include Marines and Army troops in the air expeditionary forces, or AEFs, that are sent periodically to "the desert" to help police the no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

At press time, these plans have not been affected by tensions over thwarted U.N. inspections of chemical and biological weapons sites.

So far, the 1,200-member AEFs have included only Air Force personnel, but Zinni says he hopes to schedule a Marine Corps F/A-18 squadron to go to the Gulf in the fall. That AEF could include Marine or Army security personnel instead of Air Force security police.

Army Patriot missile batteries might deploy with future AEFs, too, Zinni adds. And this spring, when the Air Force retires its EF-111 electronic warfare planes, which routinely operate in the Gulf region, their job will be taken over by Navy EA6B electronic jammers.

LOOK HOMEWARD VIDEO

FOR deployed troops, keeping in touch with home used to mean a weekly morale phone call. Recently, e-mail has permitted more frequent contact, and now troops are getting a chance to see as well as hear the folks back home.

Video phones have been installed for troops at many bases and deployments in Europe. Capt. Dan Birrenkott, an Air Force airborne and satellite communications chief, says the technology enabling troops to see as well as hear friends and relatives is proving relatively cheap, but the payback in higher morale is great.

The technology is fairly simple. A box containing a small television camera and microphone replaces a standard telephone to transmit pictures and sound. A TV set plugs into the box and serves as video and audio receiver. The setup costs about \$500.

But to send or receive a video phone call, a camera and TV screen is needed at each end. Since most families don't have that equipment at home, state-side bases are setting up video phone centers where families can go to send and receive video phone calls.

Soon, video phones will be standard equipment for most American units on deployment, Birrenkott says.

NEW PAGE IN MEDICINE

THE Marines, who relish their reputation for toughness, have a new procedure for scheduling troops for ambulatory surgery. Instead of having them gather in a hospital waiting room before minor surgeries, doctors at Cherry Point Naval Hospital in North Carolina are giving their patients beepers and sending them back to work.

Half an hour before it's time to operate, doctors page their patients, who report to the hospital and undergo their surgeries.

The procedure has cut patient frustration by eliminating long waits, hospital officials say. Since most of the surgery at Cherry Point is performed on an outpatient basis, waiting rooms frequently are full and delays common. Most patients said they would rather go to work than spend hours idling in a waiting room.

The beepers also are helping the Corps meet a goal of keeping troops on the job longer, hospital officials say.

IMPROVING MOVING

THERE is mixed news on the household moving front. Two Pentagon efforts to improve moving services are going well, but a third is stalled, according to Business Executives for National Security, a military reform organization.

On the plus side, sailors at Puget Sound, Washington, now may select their own moving companies and pay with a government credit card. These service-member arranged moves please sailors and greatly simplify government administrative processes, BENS says.

Meanwhile, moves for soldiers at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Georgia, have been contracted out to a single large relocation company. So far, performance is good, and costs are down.

But a third effort—letting the services hire moving companies that offer the best service, not just the cheapest price—is being blocked by the moving industry, the executives report.

IN THE NEWS

AFTER six weeks at sea last winter, the 5,600-member crew of the aircraft carrier USS *George Washington* had used 600 computers to send more than 300,000 e-mail messages home....Gen. Hugh Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is seeking two reserve two-star officers to fill congressionally created jobs as his advisors on reserve matters....As the Dec. 31 pullout from Panama approaches, the Air Force has banned accompanied tours....Civilian competition has pushed military medicine out of organ transplantation, ending a 35-year program at Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. □

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The Legion's School Medal Award marks outstanding leadership, character and citizenship.

TERA COLLINS sat among family and friends in her high school auditorium, filled with anticipation. It was awards day, prelude to Tera's long-anticipated graduation.

Today Tera would reap the rewards of 12 years of book reports, deciphering math equations and cramming for tests on everything from DNA to Civil War history.

Surrounded by her favorite people, Tera's excitement grew each of the five times she was called to accept an award. She was honored for her service with the National Honor Society, she was honored for being top student in her class and she won two scholarships.

But Tera says she felt most honored by an award she didn't even know existed: The American Legion School Medal.

"I was completely surprised when my name was called," recalls Tera. "This award is so special to me because it honored something different than just academics. It honored leadership,

character and the good qualities you possess rather than just what you do academically."

Indeed, The American Legion School Medal recognizes students not only for their leadership and character, but also for courage, honor, patriotism, scholarship and service. Members of The American Legion believe honoring young people who possess these virtues is a great way to cultivate high character and good citizenship among students.

This is important, explains Americanism Commission Chairman Joseph Caouette, who says the erosion of society's values is having a negative impact on children.

"I am worried about the decay we are seeing among young people in some of the old-fashioned values, like respect for law and authority. It just isn't there anymore. How do we change that? We continue to promote programs like this," he says.

Caouette believes recognizing the positive deeds of youngsters is the key to nurturing good character and ensuring the survival of positive values.

He should know. A two-time American Legion medal winner, Caouette credits the awards for instilling in him the motivation to become an active, productive member of society. For more than 50 years, Caouette says, the medals have remained close to his heart. "They sit right next to the flag that draped my father's casket, which is my most prized possession."

The program endorses the development of good character among the young; it helps perpetuate the ideals of Americanism, thus encouraging positive citizenship; and it recognizes the recipients who best exemplify true Americanism.

A medal and certificate are awarded to a boy and girl in each graduating class in elementary school, junior and senior high school and college. Caouette says this is a critical time when young Americans are at their most impressionable ages. "Kids are influenced by what they see on television," he says. "They see a great amount of abuse being glamorized in the media and throughout the entertainment industry. We must promote a healthy environment and get back to God, back to family and back to community." The awards, he says, help keep kids on the right track.

Blazoned on the medal's face are the words COURAGE, HONOR, LEADERSHIP, PATRIOTISM, SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE. Words that define character. Flip the medal over and the familiar Marine Corps motto "Semper Paratus," always faithful, drives home the message of Americanism.

Please turn to page 62

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WE'RE BACK AND ON TRACK

The flag-protection amendment returns for a showdown in the Senate, and the Legion sets its sights on victory.

THE American Legion for years has urged Capitol Hill to listen to a majority of citizens who say they should have the right to determine if Old Glory should be protected by a constitutional amendment. The fate of that much-desired proposal now rests in the hands of the U.S. Senate.

Senate Joint Resolution 40 was introduced Feb. 4 by Orrin Hatch and Max Cleland. The proposal has the same language as the amendment that cleared the House of Representatives on June 12, 1997: *The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.*

"Two years ago, we pledged to pursue this issue and stand by our flag," says National Commander Anthony G. Jordan, referring to the narrow defeat of the amendment in the Senate more than two years ago. "We're back—and the American people must remain confident that at least 67 senators will vote the will of the people."

The 67 senators Jordan refers to represent the minimum number of votes needed to secure a two-thirds majority, which is required for passage of a constitutional amendment.

Following its introduction, **SJR 40** was referred to the Senate Judiciary



POINTMAN Orrin G. Hatch, Utah's senior senator, is a leader among the 60 senators who are co-sponsors of the flag-protection amendment.

Committee, which, at press time, was expected to schedule hearings for mid-March. The flag bill must pass the Subcommittee on the Constitution and the full Judiciary Committee before it can be scheduled for a floor vote. Legion and CFA officials speculate the vote could be scheduled as early as August or September. The Senate is tentatively set to recess by early October.

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For nearly a century, the will of the people and their views of flag protection did prevail. The federal government and 48 states had flag-protection laws. But those laws were invalidated in 1989 when the Supreme Court ruled in *Texas v.*

Johnson that flag burning is protected free speech under the Constitution's First Amendment. Congress responded by passing the Flag Protection Act of 1989, which the high court later ruled unconstitutional.

With those events in mind, it became clear to Legionnaires there was only one way to correct the Supreme Court's mistake—amend the Constitution.

"The Supreme Court has forced the American people to accept flag desecration," notes Patrick Brady, chairman of the CFA's board of directors. "We're not trying to force people to respect the flag. We're simply asking that Congress let the people decide this issue. The proposed amendment restores to the people the right to protect the flag from physical desecration."

Brady notes that no other proposed constitutional amendment has a "real chance" of passing in the 105th Congress. The flag amendment has the support of both Senate Democrats and Republicans. At press time, 60 senators had signed on as co-sponsors of **SJR 40**; it's projected that at least 64 senators currently support the amendment, with several others undecided.

Georgia Democrat Max Cleland, co-author of **SJR 40**, is part of that bipartisan support. "This amendment is simple. It vests only Congress with the authority to protect the flag through statute. We need not fear that the states

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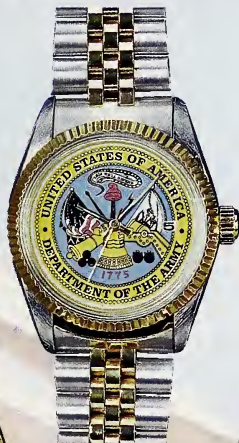
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WE'RE BACK AND ON TRACK

The flag-protection amendment returns for a showdown in the Senate, and the Legion sets its sights on victory.

THE American Legion for years has urged Capitol Hill to listen to a majority of citizens who say they should have the right to determine if Old Glory should be protected by a constitutional amendment. The fate of that much-desired proposal now rests in the hands of the U.S. Senate.

Senate Joint Resolution 40 was introduced Feb. 4 by Orrin Hatch and Max Cleland. The proposal has the same language as the amendment that cleared the House of Representatives on June 12, 1997: *The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.*

"Two years ago, we pledged to pursue this issue and stand by our flag," says National Commander Anthony G. Jordan, referring to the narrow defeat of the amendment in the Senate more than two years ago. "We're back—and the American people must remain confident that at least 67 senators will vote the will of the people."

The 67 senators Jordan refers to represent the minimum number of votes needed to secure a two-thirds majority, which is required for passage of a constitutional amendment.

Following its introduction, **SJR 40** was referred to the Senate Judiciary



POINTMAN Hatch, senior leader 60 sen are co the flag amend

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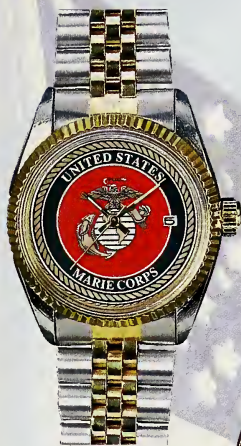
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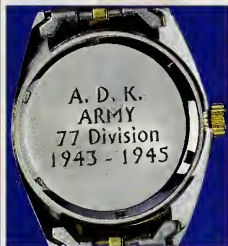
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THE FIGHTING LADY



SCOUTS' HONOR
Camping aboard the historic *Yorktown* gave this troop a close engagement with history.

One of the
best naval
museums
anywhere
is anchored
near
Charleston.



ONE-YEAR old Henry Willis races across the hangar deck of the aircraft carrier *Yorktown* like a child sprinting to the next ride at Disneyland. "That fighter plane is my favorite!" he proclaims as he gazes wide-eyed at the massive TBM Avenger torpedo bomber that sits before him.

Willis's fascination with *Yorktown* is contagious. His thrill comes from the fact that he is camping aboard the aircraft carrier as part of a school field trip. His third-grade class from M.C. Riley Elementary School in Bluffton, South Carolina, is exploring a part of the past by staying overnight on *Yorktown*, now a naval and maritime museum at Patriots Point in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.

"I am learning about history and all the different kinds of planes that were used in the war," explains an enlightened Willis. "It is neat that we are going to spend the night in the bunks they slept in."

Likewise, says 8-year-old classmate Ian McDonald. "It is cool because we get to see all the different planes and a bunch of guns. It is neat to be on a World War II carrier."

Willis and McDonald join the ranks of 16,000 other children who each year enjoy the unique opportunity of walking in the shoes of former *Yorktown* naval personnel. They tour the

fighter and hangar decks, the ship's hospital, bridge and ready rooms. Further, they examine carrier aircraft ranging from World War II fighters, bombers and torpedo planes to modern jets. The on-board overnight is part of an educational endeavor designed to allow children to reach beyond the textbook and touch a significant piece of the past.

"It instills in children a sense of honor, valor and patriotism," explains ret. Rear Adm. James H. Flatley III, chief executive officer of the *Yorktown* Museum. "What we give these kids is unique because *Yorktown* is rich with history."

A veteran of three wars, *Yorktown* (CV-10) was named after the old *Yorktown* (CV-5), sunk in 1942 at the Battle of Midway.

Commissioned April 15, 1943, she earned her nickname, "The Fighting Lady," in World War II battles at Iwo Jima, Okinawa, the Philippines, Truk and the Marianas.

Her planes claimed 118 enemy ships sunk and 329 others damaged. They destroyed 458 enemy aircraft in the air and 695 on the ground. Gun crews shot down another 14.

The Fighting Lady went on to serve in the Korean and Vietnam wars. The finale to her distinguished service came in December 1968 when she picked up the crew of Apollo 8, the first manned spacecraft to circle the moon.

Yorktown was decommissioned in 1970.

Today, The Fighting Lady sits atop 25 feet of mud in South Carolina's Charleston Harbor. Her missions are education and to memorialize carrier aviation personnel. Annually *Yorktown* plays host to 365,000 visitors, making it South Carolina's most visited historic attraction. The naval and maritime museum honors the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine. In addition to various wartime aircraft, the museum includes the World War II destroyer *Laffey*, submarine *Clamagore*, Coast Guard Cutter *Ingham* and a re-creation of a Vietnam naval support base, making Patriots Point one of the most comprehensive naval museums in the country.

Today's *Yorktown* is also known as "The Arlington of Carrier Aviation" because she chronicles the exploits of war heroes; the names of 8,080 carrier shipmates lost in combat are on 104 bronze plaques throughout the ship.

Other special exhibits include the Medal of Honor room, which details the eight eras of MOH history. Panels list the names of all MOH recipients and include pictures of well-known

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**SHALL I BOARD
HER, SIR?
USS Constitution
trades broadsides
with HMS Guerriere,
1812.**

Ship-Shape and Sailing Strong

LAST summer, the refurbished *USS Constitution* briefly set sail for the first time in 116 years—a stirring sight against a backdrop of modern warships and under the wings of a Blue Angels fly-over. It was a picture of continuity and change, a reminder of what our Navy has done and a portent of exciting times to come.

The story of *USS Constitution*, in a real sense, is the history of the Navy. The frigate and her sister ships, *United States* and *Constellation*, were the first

Adm. Elmo F. Zumwalt, a former Chief of Naval Operations, is a consultant on naval and geo-political affairs.

Gobs of Glory: In harm's way from Tripoli to the Gulf for 200 years

By Adm. Elmo F. Zumwalt

ships to be built for the United States Navy and the first to be commissioned by the new Navy Department. In fact, the construction of the frigates and the creation of a Navy Department represented an infant republic's dawning realization that America was inescapably

a maritime nation that needed to project power overseas and maintain a forward presence.

The realization did not come easily. With the end of the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress sold off and disbanded the Navy for want of funds. The framers of our new Constitution subsequently authorized the federal government to "maintain" a Navy, but, for a revenue-poor country coping with a large war debt, the temptation was overwhelming to rely on low-cost militia and privateers for defense. President George Washington created a single Department of War for both Army and Navy, and sought to keep the country out of any overseas entanglements to avoid a military challenge the country could not afford. Alas for the careful economies, overseas powers

Ship-Shape and Sailing Strong

did not cooperate.

America's commerce was already becoming global—and Americans overseas were vulnerable. Barbary pirates soon were attacking unprotected American shipping in the Mediterranean, and French revolutionaries began conducting a quasi-war against American ships in the Caribbean and Atlantic. It rapidly became apparent that a Navy was not an expensive luxury but a necessity: American lives and interests had to be protected in a troubled and uncertain world. Congress took action, first authorizing the construction of a series of frigates, including *USS Constitution*, and then, in April 1798, establishing the Department of the Navy under Benjamin Stoddert.

The new "fleet" and its sailors and marines quickly made America proud. Operations off Libya and in the Caribbean were so successful that, at war's end, the Navy was promptly downsized. New construction stopped, and all but six frigates were sold or left to rot at the pier. Navy people still persevered, a solid leadership core was retained and overseas deployments continued with reduced manning.

Yet, the young republic could not separate itself from a quarrelsome world. The next challenge came from Britain. The War of 1812 earned *Constitution* the nickname "Old Ironsides" when cannonballs were seen to bounce off her sides. The war earned the Navy and Marine Corps the undying affection of the American public. They took pride in Perry, McDonough, Hull, and in the victories on Lake Erie and Lake Champlain, but they learned a lesson, too: It is too late to build a navy when the guns start firing. When this war ended, Congress directed the Navy to build a balanced fleet able to defend American rights overseas and to protect a coastline that now extended to the Pacific. The Navy had a charted course as an enduring institution undertaking the high-profile missions we know today. Forward deployments spanned the globe from anti-slavery patrols off West Africa to commerce protection in the Western Pacific and from Wilkes's exploration of the Pacific to Perry's opening of Japan. It was a time for experimentation. Steam power began to supplant sail power. The heavy guns developed by Dahlgren began to replace the old broadsides. And the U.S. Naval Academy was founded



to ensure a well-trained officer corps—with the now nearly 60-year-old *Constitution* assuming a new role as training ship. The Navy began to reinvent itself.

This new Navy came of age in the Civil War. Within the space of four years, Navy people gave sea warfare its modern form. Ironclads replaced wooden sailing ships. Riverine, blockade and amphibious operations became the order of the day. Officers like Foote, Porter and Farragut displayed an almost breathtaking flexibility, shifting from blue-water naval warfare to projecting naval power ashore. The Navy-Marine team began joint operations with the Army along the coasts of the Confederacy and on the

Western rivers—sometimes 500 to 1,000 miles from the coast.

These revolutionary changes in war at sea sparked a rapid-fire cycle of innovations in foreign fleets—but not in our own.

Most of the Navy's ships were quickly retired after the war; building programs ended. Brown-water operations were put aside and what remained of the fleet returned to its overseas presence role. By 1890, our fleet ranked 13th in the world—after Chile. These doldrums also were a time for reflection, and soon another naval revolution was brewing under Alfred Thayer Mahan at the newly founded Naval War College. Mahan began a profound change in how Americans thought about



'Damn the torpedoes, Full speed ahead!'
Admiral David Farragut



sea power by putting into words the lessons that *Constitution's* operations over the preceding century had taught: Control of the seas was vital to our well-being, and that America needed a fleet able to deal with any adversary.

This time America took heed. Under the forceful leadership of Navy secretaries Benjamin Tracey and Hilary Herbert, America built a modern two-ocean Navy. Then, during the war with Spain, in battles from Manila Bay to Santiago, Dewey and Sampson demonstrated what that Navy could do. In 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt took the revolution a step further and ordered an around-the-world cruise by the Great White Fleet. It was America's announcement that it had come of age and was now a global power.

It is not by accident that not one of the past century's wars was fought on our shores. As Mahan had foreseen, America's security lies in winning and holding command of the seas and using that command to project power onto



**'You may fire
when ready,
Gridley.'**

**Commodore
George Dewey**

enemy shores. Two world wars and the Cold War demonstrated the validity of that view. In World War I, our Navy confounded the Imperial German Navy's boast that our newly raised "million-man Army" would never reach Europe, while Marines set a new standard for courage in France. The Navy underwent rapid change. New ships were built. Battleship sailors became destroyermen. Anti-submarine and mine warfare were mastered to defeat the U-boat menace. By the war's end, the U.S. Navy was, in President Woodrow Wilson's words, "second to none."

AMID the post-war cycle of arms reductions, the Navy again returned to innovating and planning for an uncertain future. Confronted with a growing Pacific threat, innovators like Moffett, Ellis and Lejeune began a new revolution in carrier aviation and amphibious warfare. This revolution was the heart of the great victories of World War II from the Coral Sea to Midway, our greatest naval victory, and from North Africa to Iwo Jima. A new generation of heroes like Nimitz, Spruance and Halsey mastered the new warfare with devastating results for America's enemies. It was entirely fitting that World War II ended on the decks of *USS Missouri*, one of *Constitution's* successors, in Tokyo Bay, not far from the anchorage of the Great White Fleet 40 years earlier.

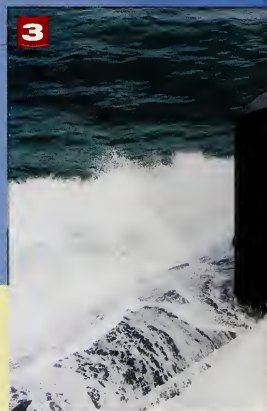
No sooner was the war won than the challenges of a protracted Cold War arose. The Navy's response was threefold. Forward carrier battle groups and amphibious ready groups became the instrument of choice in responding to Cold War crises, while their striking power exploited the vulnerable sea flanks of the Soviet Union in a New Maritime

U.S. NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER



IN HARM'S WAY
USS New York, with kite balloon streamed, leads the Sixth Battle Squadron to sea during operations with Britain's Grand Fleet in 1918.

Ship-Shape and Sailing Strong



SEA POWER

- 1** The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS George Washington in the Mediterranean.
- 2** F/A-18 Hornets from USS America in formation.
- 3** USS Seawolf, first of a new class of attack submarines, begins sea trials.
- 4** On USS Nimitz, Aircraft Controlman Buccie Cline monitors aircraft recovery operations.
- 5** USS Normandy, a Ticonderoga-class cruiser, transits the Suez Canal.

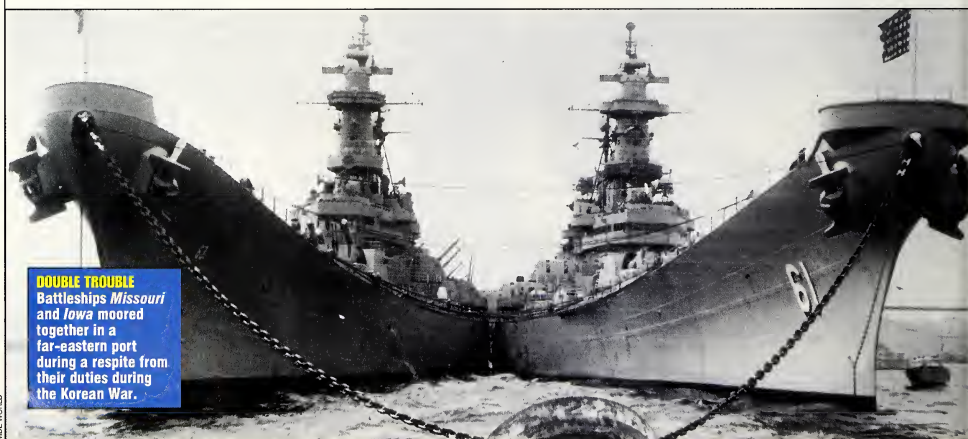
Strategy. Under Burke and Rickover, the Navy introduced nuclear propulsion and then put missiles to sea in the fleet ballistic missile submarine program. Secure sea-based forces became a stabilizing cornerstone of our strategic nuclear deterrence.

Finally, our sailor-diplomats led the way in the rapprochement with the Soviets, first with agreements to minimize

and manage incidents at sea, then with ship visits and exercises. From the coasts of Korea to the brown water and jungles of Vietnam and the desert skies over Kuwait and Iraq, in crises from the Middle East to Cuba, and in the silent depths of the world's oceans, through more than 40 years of crisis and war, the Navy-Marine team was there when needed.

My experience in fighting beside our magnificent sailors in two wars and in observing them under my command in a third has led me to hold in awe their courage and patriotism and to honor the country and Navy which shaped them into fighting teams.

Now the Navy, like *Constitution*, is sailing into its third century. Historians insist that the past holds the key to the



DOUBLE TROUBLE
Battleships *Missouri*
and *Iowa* moored
together in a
far-eastern port
during a respite from
their duties during
the Korean War.

WIDE WORLD



PHOTOS FROM LEFT: GARY HANE

future. If that is so, then what does this proud history tell us of the Navy's future? I believe there are two important lessons in this Navy story: the enduring importance of sea power, and the ability and willingness of Navy people to undertake revolutionary change.

The problems of our infant republic bear an uncanny resemblance to those of today. Our forebearers faced a world in turmoil, dangers to global commerce and terrorist attacks on Americans overseas. They came to recognize that, despite their best efforts, the problems of the old world always seemed to make their way to the doorstep of the new. They saw the necessity of projecting power overseas to shape a better and safer world and of maintaining a forward naval presence where America's citizens and interests were most threatened. Like us, they relied on the Navy-Marine team.

Why? The key to the importance of sea power, 200 years ago, today and in the next century, is the sea itself. Mahan called it the great commons, an international environment in which our sovereign national power can be sustained indefinitely and without any other nation's leave, ready to respond to any contingency—as illustrated by

Dewey's descent on Manila Bay and the intercept of the *Achille Lauro* hijackers. That will not change. Indeed, the more constrained access to overseas bases, ports and airfields becomes, the more we are likely to depend on our Navy.

If sea power is a constant of American history, then our hope for the next century lies in the Navy's remarkable history of innovation. The Navy has "reinvented" itself time after time: in the Civil War, with the battleship navy, with carrier and amphibious warfare, and again with the nuclear and ballistic-missile navy. From Dahlgren and Dupont in the Civil War, to Mahan, Tracey and Roosevelt in the 1890s, to Moffet and Ellis in the 1920s, to Burke and Rickover in the 1950s, Navy people pushed the limits of technology and translated new ideas into the naval power that won America's wars. Today is no different. The Cold War

was scarcely over before the Navy and Marine Corps began work on a new direction. By the end of 1992, the Navy had already dramatically shifted its focus from the open ocean to the littoral

and was taking on the problems of projecting decisive power and influence ashore. The technologies, cruise missiles and aircraft of tomorrow's Navy will be able to reach targets 1,000 miles inland and enable Marines to conduct operations hundreds of miles from the coast. The forward presence of the next century will not only control the sea, but also extend a defensive umbrella over an entire region protecting both our forces and our local friends.

As the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Jay Johnson, has written, "The future is bright." America's Navy, like *USS Constitution*, is 200 years young and sailing proudly into a bright future. □



'A good Navy is not a provocation to war. It is the surest guaranty of peace.'

Theodore Roosevelt

ROOSEVELT FROM LEFT: GARY HANE

Life's GREAT MULLIGAN



He survived the jungles of Vietnam and triumphed amid the bunkers of the U.S. Open. Now he's battling his way on the PGA Senior Tour.

IN 1968, a filthy, unshaven and exhausted Larry Nelson leaned back against the wall of a bunker, listening as an Army buddy spoke wistfully about home and the pleasures of golf, so far from the mean ground of Vietnam. The 21-year-old infantry buck sergeant, a whiz at topographical maps, had been leading squads on search-and-destroy missions. In three months, he'd seen half the men in his unit go down, killed or wounded.

To Nelson, home meant his wife Gayle, the state of Georgia and an unfulfilled scholarship offer to play baseball and basketball at Southern Technical Institute. Until now, he'd considered golf a sissy sport. But as he looked at his equally filthy, unshaven and rock-tough pal, Larry Nelson made a fateful resolution.

"If I ever get out of here in one piece," he mused to himself, "I'm going to give that game a try."

After returning to Georgia with everything intact, the 5-9, 150-pound Nelson soon ruined his pitching arm during a pro baseball try out.

He took a job in the mock-up department at Lockheed Aircraft's plant in Marietta, attending Kennesaw Junior College at nights on the GI Bill. With a copy of Ben Hogan's *Five Lessons: The Modern Fundamentals of Golf*, Nelson set out to teach himself a new sport.

Well, sissy this: Within six years, the late-starter played his way onto the PGA Tour.

Between 1979 and 1988, Nelson won 10 tournaments, including three majors—the 1981 and 1987 PGA Championships and the 1983 U.S. Open. Earning nearly \$4 million, he also represented the United States on three Ryder Cup teams, racking up a brilliant 9-3-1 record.

While clearly one of the dominant players of the 1980s, Nelson seldom receives mention in the same breath as Lee Trevino, Tom Watson and other "colorful" stars. Nelson is low-key, polite, even-tempered and soft-spoken. And yet, pro golf insiders know that Nelson's attention-deflecting is a critical aspect of this steel-nerved competitor. "Hogan with a smile," is how author James Dodson describes him.

Last September brought a particularly large grin to Nelson's face. When he turned 50, he became eligible to play on the lucrative PGA Senior Tour. And so, on a warm, late autumn afternoon at the Silverado Country Club in California's Napa Valley, Nelson was preparing for the Transamerica Tournament, his fifth since embarking on what senior golfers often call "life's great mulligan."

With Jay Stuller, a frequent contributor to this magazine, Nelson talked golf, family, responsibility and Vietnam.

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE: Has the emergence of the PGA Senior Tour given you and other golfers a new outlook on life?

LARRY NELSON: It really is a second chance, although I don't see it as a mulligan. A mulligan is a gift. The Senior Tour provides only an opportunity. A player has to *earn*



ON IN TWO
The PGA Senior Tour gives golfers such as Nelson a second opportunity for success.

every dime. But just to have that chance is tremendous.

In the past, golfers could remain fairly competitive on the regular tour until their early 40s, and then they'd pretty much have to do something else to earn a living. But one of the things it has done is give players in their late 30s and 40s a reason to take better care of themselves.

Q. You apparently put some real thought and effort into preparing for this career renewal.

A. I consulted with several experts in physiology to get an idea of what I needed to do specifically for golf. I have also worked with a personal trainer for the past few years, putting in three days a week of cardiovascular exercise and three days a week of weights. It's had a positive impact, to where I became competitive on the regular tour.

It hasn't been easy. Every year that you get older and happier with yourself, there's less motivation to get into physical condition. And I made a common mistake at first, when I set goals too high and attempted too much. I tried to run a mile and it just didn't work. So I set small goals, telling myself I wanted to run for five minutes. When I ran for six minutes, I exceeded expectations.

Q. Unlike many other 50-year-olds, you had a pretty compelling reason for training—going after a share of the Senior Tour's \$41 million in prize money.

A. That's true, even though self-motivation is the best motivation—to exercise and get into shape simply because it's good for your health. But you don't need to be

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HIGHLIGHTS

Larry Nelson On...

Physical preparation: "I consulted with several experts in physiology to get an idea of what I needed...for golf. I also worked with a trainer, putting in three days a week of cardiovascular exercise and three days of weights."

Extended careers: "In the past, golfers could remain fairly competitive on the regular tour until their early 40s, and then they'd pretty much have to do something else....But one of the things [the Senior Tour] has done is to give players in their late 30s and 40s a reason to take better care of themselves."

Golf and war: "Competitive golf is a lot easier than walking through a rice paddy and seeing an AK-47 shooting at your head."

kan
Garrington
Jamestown
berdeen
Redfield
Plankin
O'Neill
Greeley
Grand Is
Hastings
Red Cloud
ebanon
Russell
Hoisington
Great Bend
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Alva
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Binger
Lawton
hita Falls
teral Wells
TEXAS
Lampasas
an Antonio
McAllister
Brownsville

BLUE-CAP HIGHWAY

*In crossing
one big
country, it
connects
to only one
big city.*



Editor's note: This is the final installment of a two-part series chronicling a trip along The American Legion Memorial Highway. In this episode, Cameron and Simon have crossed the Missouri River and entered Nebraska.

OPENING the Nebraska road map reveals an eye-catching section called "Strange and Wonderful Tidbits of the Cornhusker State." For instance: The state developed the 911 emergency system and is home to—believe it or not—the National Liars Hall of Fame. A quick scan of the "Commemorative Highways" section revealed the War Veterans Memorial

By Layne Cameron

Photos by John E. Simon



MID POINT This Chapel marks the center of the contiguous 48 states.

Highway, General Guenther Drive and the Gerald Ford Freeway. There's 281. No, wait. That section is dedicated as the Tom Osborne Expressway. Why isn't there a credit to The American Legion?

Mary Jo Hall, director of Nebraska's Public Information Office, attributed the exclusion to the absence of a master list. "The file is in the process of being compiled," explains Hall. Just when I thought she was passing the buck, Hall added, in true Nebraskan spirit, "I can see now we need to put this on our next map. We'll take this information and add it to the 1999 map."

Ron Walters, Post 93 in O'Neil, knows about being left out. Spinal



ON THE LAND Harlan (background) near



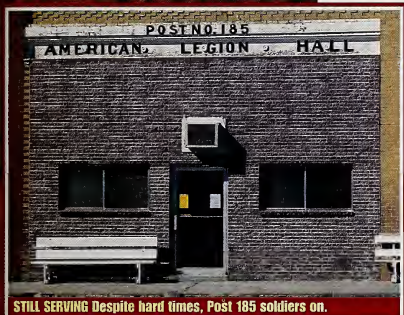
SHOWING THOSE COLORS A Nebraskan's tribute.

meningitis kept him stateside at Fort Lewis, Washington, when it was his time to ship out for Vietnam. In 1971, he returned to O'Neil, an Irish community in northern Nebraska, and opened a one-chair barbershop.

A quarter century later, the decor looks as it did for the grand opening, with Walters ensconced in his one-chair, wood-paneled shop, awaiting



raises cattle (left, inset) and tends his fields
s, Nebraska.



STILL SERVING Despite hard times, Post 185 soldiers on.

customers. One imagines the conversation has not changed much either with the barber favoring snippets of conversation over continuous chatter.

"He's consistent," says Fred Appleby, explaining why he's been a long-time customer (paying just \$7 and not having to tip doesn't hurt, either). The fellow Post 93 member sat patiently as Walters worked his rhythm of combing up twice, cutting twice. "Leave both ears on," Appleby jests.

The one-liner drew a courtesy chuckle from Walters but was not allowed to disrupt his flow. Walters' boyish, John Denver look indicates a certain refrain of emotion, a comfort in regularity. Appointments are scheduled every half hour until noon. *Comb, comb, snip, snip.* Walk-ins in the afternoon. *Comb, comb, snip, snip.* Doesn't cut women's hair and doesn't offer a traditional shave. *Comb, comb, snip, snip.* Lock up and go home for the



A CUT ABOVE Fred Appleby gets a back-and-sides at Ron Walters' barbershop in O'Neil, Nebraska.

night.

The people residing in these hamlets seem content to move at this comfortable pace. Silicon Valley, cellular phones and cyberspace hold little value here. That's not implying a tag of backwardness by any means. Out here, tradition outweighs trend, face-to-face is favored over facsimile and "we'll do lunch" translates to actually sitting down to supper together. It seems that four factors take precedent: family, friends, fellowship and football—University of Nebraska Cornhusker football that is.

Nearly 30 years of grid-iron dominance has bred a cult of Cornhuskers who are mad about football. More specifically, they idolize the man who, for the last 25 years, masterminded the team's rise in the ratings.

The recently retired Tom Osborne was on the radio. He has his own television show. At the gas station, his face appears on a set of commemorative glasses. "Coach" even has a stretch of U.S. 281, from Grand Island to Hastings, dedicated in his honor. "Short of missing the first two games this year, we haven't missed a game in 10 years," says Harlan Siebrass, commander of Blue Hill's A.L. Shirley Post 176. "So it's hard to object to naming this section Tom Osborne."

The "we" Siebrass referred to is his petite wife of 40 years, Mildred, an Auxiliary member. Both Paid-Up-For-Life in the Legion family, they live just south of the Osborne stretch of highway. They are the third Siebrass generation to tend these 1,500 acres.

The Siebrass yard is a record of pride and of tribulations faced. An American flag rippled high and proud, second in height only to the windmill tower—sans head, which a tornado stole years ago. Each window screen has countless pockmarks from crop-crushing hail.

The spry 66-year-old Siebrass, in his Wranglers, worn cowboy boots and Nebraska Cornhuskers hat, can recall each of the storms that caused the

damage as clearly as he remembers walking to the country school when The American Legion Memorial Highway was gravel, or as he details the team effort it takes to run the farm. Depending on the crop rotation, the Siebrass fields are planted with soybeans, corn, wheat, milo or alfalfa. They also raise registered Herefords. "We calve out 110 each spring," says Siebrass as he smiles at his wife. "She can calve the cows out just as easy as I can."

Team Siebrass's tenure looks to end soon nonetheless. As yet, none of their children seem interested in taking over the operation. But this prospect doesn't cloud Harlan's outlook. "There's a pride of ownership from working with nature and God's creation," says Siebrass. "Tending the cows, watching them being born, watching them



INTERNATIONAL
PEACE GARDEN

an.

Barrington

Jamestown

ORTH
KOTA

berdeen

Redfield

OUTH
KOTA

Plankinton

ndall Darr

O'Neill

Greeley

Grand Is

ASKA

Hastings

Red Cloud

ebanon

Russell

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Great Bend

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TEXAS

Lampasas

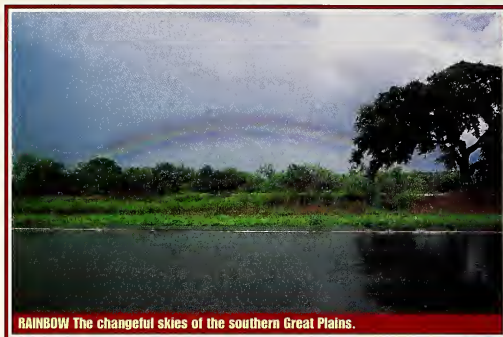
an Antonio

McAllen

Brownsville



TOTEM This Lawton-area artifact uses cars as design elements.



RAINBOW The changeful skies of the southern Great Plains.



LEGION-AIR Dune-drivin' enthusiasts air it out.

grow—that's the satisfaction."

Home on the Range

OUT of Nebraska and into Kansas, one feels more centered than ever, perhaps a result of basking in the Siebrass resiliency as well as arriving at the geographic center of the lower 48 states, just north of Lebanon.

We studied the placard, said a prayer at the site's four-pew chapel and went into town for souvenirs. Lebanon's deserted main street quickly douses any euphoria. LaDow's Market was one of the few buildings on the dirt road that was not boarded up. Inside, there are T-shirts, spoons, post cards and a diehard woman who embraces the idea of a soon-to-be ghost town.

"Main Street is dying," says one resident. "They're tearing down the buildings. But that's OK with me. I'd rather see an empty lot than a crumbly building. Don't quote me

on that, though. Folks around here are sad to see the buildings go."

The eulogy made us eager to get back on the road.

There was a welcome silver lining 88 miles later in Russell—former Sen. Bob Dole's hometown. The residents lined the brick main street in anticipation of the high school's homecoming parade. Queen aspirants in convertibles, floats and the entire football team crammed on a hay wagon spurred déjà vu of Dole's check card commercial.

"That commercial was supposed to be filmed here," explains Dean Banker, owner of Banker's clothing store. "But the California film crew showed up in January wearing shorts and tans, and the weather turned bad. They had to move it to Texas."

Banker, a member of William Roe Post 99, should know. He didn't get the prime role of asking Dole for two forms of ID. But from his ties with the sena-

tor, he scored a cameo, "Hi, Bob" in the spot. Truth be told, Dole, also a member of Post 99, could write a check just about anywhere in this state without so much as a video store card.

During lunch at Mer-ridy's, the diner portrayed in the commercial, Banker and fellow Legionnaires Rus Townsley, Elmer Steinkle, Henry Bender and Paul Frank regaled us with Bob Dole vignettes detailing how the senator helped Russell, as well as the entire state of Kansas.

Bender, for example, headed the committee that brought potable water to Russell. Without an adequate aquifer, residents had become accustomed to trucking in fresh water. When Bender's committee proposed a water district requiring 1,300 miles of pipe, "Henry came up to a government wall that he couldn't go through, around, over or tunnel under," says Banker. "The next day, Bob Dole called and opened a door, and [we] walked right through."

Banker believes the water district is attracting people back to Russell. And Dole would be a welcomed part of that influx. He'd have to find a new house, though. His boyhood home is now a museum.

Cutting the dust out of Russell, we drove through Hoisington (in less than 30 minutes) and continued to Great Bend. We paid homage to the Barton County Courthouse where The American Legion Memorial Highway was dedicated. There is no plaque to be found that commemorates the March 30, 1960, gala.

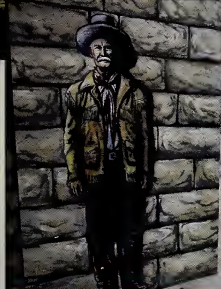
Instead, we found a living archive, Don Dailey of Argonne Post 180, who attended the ribbon-cutting. "They had representatives from Mexico and Canada, and all the big wheels from Kansas and the Legion were there," recalls Dailey. Living along the highway has afforded Dailey a front-row view of its growth. "This used to be a Model-T highway, all thin, you know. But now it's wide and smooth. It's real nice."

Not in Kansas Anymore

DRIVING toward Oklahoma on the silky smooth expressway, travelers can spend as much time looking out the passenger window as watching



IN THE GARDEN Father Shaughnessy at the San Jose Mission.



BILLY THE SENIOR CITIZEN It's well known in Hico, Texas, that Billy the Kid retired there pseudonymously. The bank hasn't been robbed since Billy's likeness was painted on it.



straight ahead. Trekking across these four states (and looking forward to the two ahead) can lead to a fondness for perpetual rurality.

No traffic. No subdivisions. No strip malls. Hour-long white-line hypnosis sessions between interviews. Just open fields, prairies and the straight-shot highway stretching to the horizon. Overpopulation, rising crime rates and urban sprawl garner little news here—and hopefully, never will.

An abrupt change in traffic and topography brought that meditation to a close. An exodus of trucks trailing all-terrain vehicles, dune buggies and sand-tire equipped Jeeps streamed from the town of Waynoka, Oklahoma. The gateway dune of Little Sahara State Park resembled the start of the Indianapolis 500. An eclectic collection of fat-tire vehicles formed a two-by-two starting grid. Everyone from little shavers to senior citizens revved their engines, waiting for the checkered flag to fall.

Glaciers of millennia past ground quartz into sand and formed this 1500-

acre, golden-dune playground. Cherokee Indians called the hills "The Walking Mountains"; Oklahoma highway workers probably have another phrase, especially since the shifting sands have forced them to move U.S. 281 three times since 1950.

Bill Huffman, dune tour driver, agreed to give us a ride in a seven-seater buggy. I quickly learned to keep my mouth closed or risk having my teeth cleaned by sandblasting. It didn't take us long to find an animated crowd standing atop one of the outer dunes. "Keep on the gas!" yelled the mob. They were prodding Legionnaire Keith Dittman of Salina, Kansas, to grab air a la Michael Jordan and launch his ATV over the hill-top.

His jumps were tentative at best, but his effort to preserve family harmony was Olympic caliber. "My wife and her family have been coming here all her life," Dittman explains. "So I guess I kind of married into it." Hmm. Playing in the sand to please the in-laws....

Huffman fired

up his Volkswagen-powered rig to shuttle us back to the gate. Back at the ranger's shelter, another group stood waiting for a ride. "Oh no," says Huffman in mock dismay, "looks like I have to give another tour." Selflessness abounds in Little Sahara.

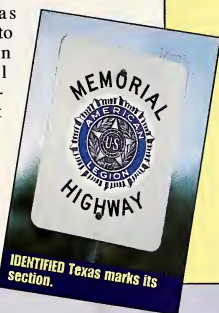
From sand dunes to sandlots, we drove into Johnny Bench's hometown of Binger. As most Legionnaires know, the Hall of Famer came up through the American Legion Baseball ranks on a team sponsored by Post 201 and anchored the Cincinnati Reds' back-to-back world championships. Bench retired in the Queen City, but his presence is still felt in Binger, where a baseball field is named in his honor. Residents also perpetuate the legendary catcher's fame by delivering on short notice eloquent orations about the Big Red Machine's glory days.

We found plenty of people who could talk baseball but not enough who had time for a pickup game. So we drove on to Texas.

The Ayes of Texas

"...since Texas was the first state to have an American Legion Memorial Highway," then-Texas Department Adjutant G. Ward Moody wrote on Oct. 29, 1959, "I believe our signs should prevail

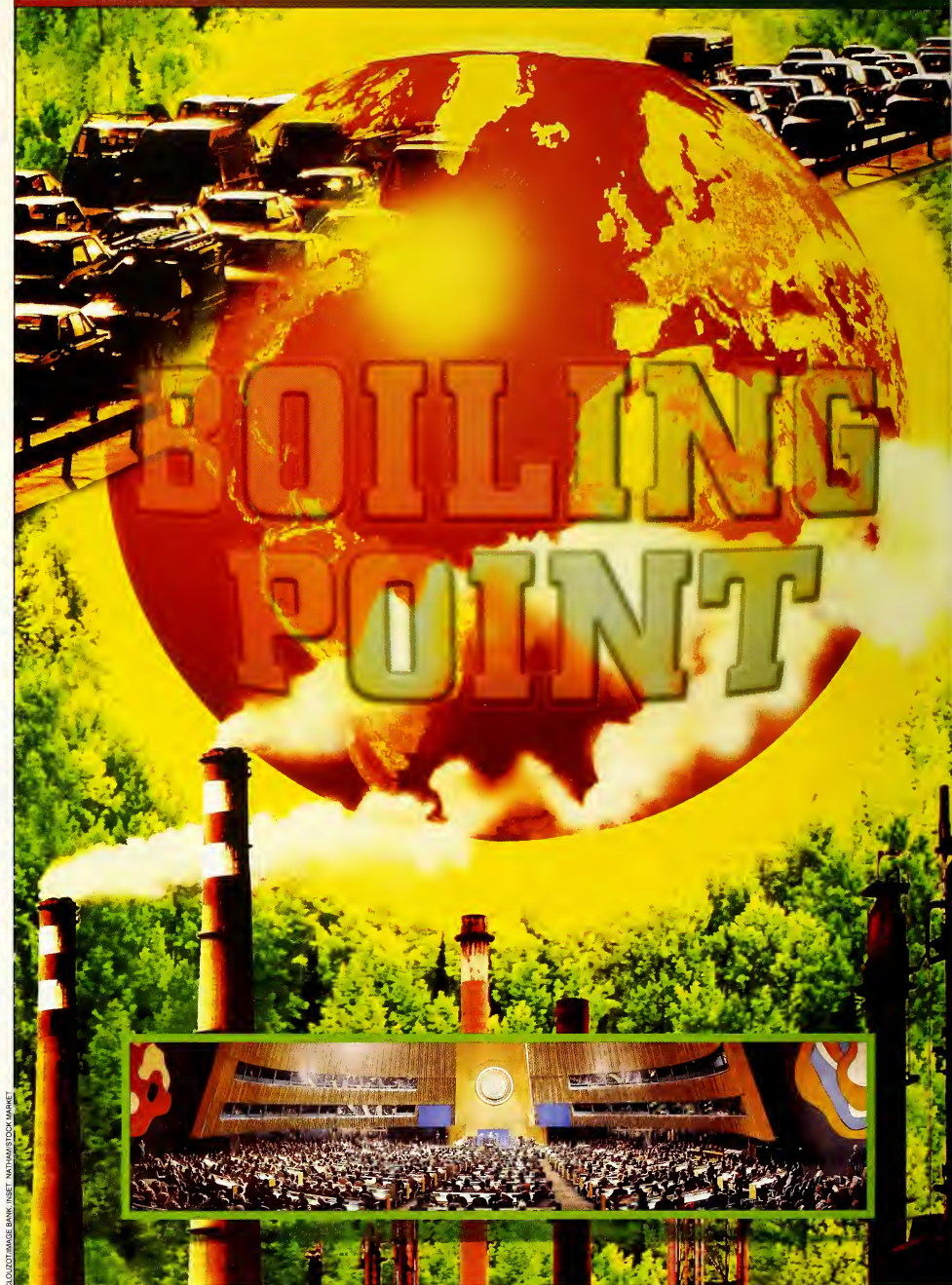
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IDENTIFIED Texas marks its section.



OPEN ROAD The trip south ends as it began.



CLOUTIER/IMAGE BANK; INSET: JANTHAWASTOCK MARKET



its way.

THE battle over a United Nations treaty on global warming is getting hot, with one side warning of an environmental apocalypse if the other side has

The White House and the environmental movement are sounding the alarm, warning of more pollution, heat waves, infectious diseases, mega-hurricanes, melting icecaps and rising sea levels because of hotter temperatures. There is even the possibility, as President Bill Clinton describes it, that thousands of miles of Florida, Louisiana and other coastal areas might submerge.

The other side, a coalition of labor and business, is warning of skyrocketing prices for everything from toothpaste to contact lenses, electricity to food, plastics to aspirin. They warn of higher energy taxes, requirements for smaller and lighter cars and a potential loss to our economy of more than a million jobs.

The issue is whether drastic action needs to be taken now to reduce man-made greenhouse gases—caused by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas—which some scientists believe contribute to global warming.

The Clinton administration notes that one U.N. panel found a “discernible human impact on global climate” and maintained that the risk is so great that action needed to be taken at a U.N. meeting in Kyoto last December. The administration wants a legally binding international agreement to reduce emissions of these gases, primarily carbon dioxide. The agreement, a treaty, would have to be ratified by the Senate.

But Fred Palmer, chief executive officer of Western Fuels Association, complains that his firm, which supplies coal from U.S. sources, faces extinction. “They want to eliminate coal use—totally—in 10 to 15 years. And they’re dead serious,” he says. Only two decades ago, he points out, the government encouraged using domestic coal to cut reliance on foreign oil.

Palmer doesn’t accept the theory behind global warming. “It’s based on speculative fears when there’s no science to support the hypothesis,” he says. Rather than being a pollutant, Palmer and some scientists argue, car-

bon dioxide is a benign gas necessary for plant growth, which will lengthen growing seasons and facilitate food production. Some scientists also argue that global warming—less than a degree over the past century—is a natural phenomenon not related to the release of greenhouse gases.

Dirk Forrister, chairman of the White House Climate Change Task Force, downplays fears of widespread devastation of American industry if a treaty goes forward. “Nobody is talking about phasing out the coal industry in that amount of time,” he says. “Coal is going to be part of this country’s future for a long time. It’s a question of

called developing countries.

“We’re talking about asking veterans to give up their jobs and pay higher utility bills,” he says. “For what? To help communist China, which opposes everything this country stands for—freedom of speech and freedom of assembly, for example—rights that American veterans have fought and died for.” Such concerns are striking a chord with the Senate, where 67 members have to ratify any agreement. Last July, 95 senators put their names on a resolution warning President Clinton not to commit the United States unless developing countries such as China also are bound by it.

Forrister, the White House staffer, acknowledges this concern, but he insists that bringing China and other countries into compliance is only a matter of “timing.”

He says that the United States alone has contributed 28 percent of the greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere, and that all the developing countries, including China, have contributed only a fourth. “We owe a responsibility to the rest of the international community to show leadership on this,” he says.

UMWA’s Roberts is not so convinced: “I’m not sure leading means walking off a cliff.”

The executive council of the AFL-CIO, which includes the UMWA, warns that a one-sided agreement will export jobs, capital and pollution to high-growth developing countries destined to become the biggest greenhouse gas emitters. As a result, they warn, an agreement could actually make global warming, if real, worse.

What’s more, Roberts believes countries such as China have no intention of ever meeting similar standards. “What’s driving these other countries, in their sense of urgency for us to sign the treaty, is they want our American jobs,” he says.

But Jacob Scherr, director of the international program at the Natural Resources Defense Council, agrees with the White House position, casting the United States as a global glutton. “If

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Cliff Kincaid is a freelance journalist from Owings, Maryland. He writes Washington Watch for this magazine.

***A U.N. summit in
Japan last year
turned up the
heat on energy
taxes and consumer
prices—and might
cost U.S. jobs.***

By Cliff Kincaid

how cleanly we burn it.” He concedes, however, that some miners will lose their jobs and have to be retrained.

In this debate, business executives such as Palmer have found themselves in the unusual position of being on the same side as labor. Cecil Roberts Jr., president of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), also foresees the end of the coal industry, including the jobs of his 50,000 members.

In an interview at UMWA headquarters in Washington, D.C., Roberts, a sixth-generation coal miner, appealed for support from veterans’ groups, suggesting the climate-change agreement is shaping up as one that is fundamentally anti-American. He repeatedly noted that it will exempt the Peoples’ Republic of China, an emerging industrial and military superpower, and other so-

THE HEAT IS ON Some claim drastic action must be taken now to reduce man-made gasses produced when fossil fuels are burned. These gasses lead to global warming, says a U.N. panel, which found a “discernible human impact on global climate.”

Dark Side Of The *SUN*

By Paul Martin

It was a vacation that forever will be seared in Mary Smith's memory.

"In February 1986, I got badly sunburned at the hotel pool in Acapulco," Smith remembers. "That night I noticed a large, black mole, which I had never seen before, on my left shoulder.

When I went home to La Grange, Illinois, a friend suggested I go see Dr. George Engel, a dermatologist in Chicago. When he saw the mole he was very concerned, operated and then sent it out to be biopsied. Malignant melanomas are graded from 1 to 5, with 5 being the most severe, and mine was a grade 4.

"Had he not removed it, I could have been dead within six months. I was checked every six months for the next five years and then checked once a year, and there has been no sign of cancer since. He saved my life," says Smith, who asked that her real name not be used in this article.

Engel has treated more than 5,000 patients for skin cancer and is trained in a technique developed by Dr. Frederic Mohs of the University of Wisconsin. In this method, the physician removes the tumor in stages and makes a microscopic inspection of the tissue at each step. Using this approach, the clinician can be sure of removing all of the ma-

Catch this cancer in time, and you might just save your life.

lignancy while retaining as much healthy tissue as possible, particularly important with facial tumors.

"Malignant melanoma is extremely dangerous," says Engel. "That is why in this kind of case I choose the Mohs technique. Using the Mohs method, we remove very thin layers of skin, bisect or quarter them and then mark them with various colors of dye. A map is made of the removed tissue and, using the colors, the physician can pinpoint any residual tumor when each subsequent specimen is viewed under the microscope."

The "Skinny"

- This year more than 900,000 Americans will develop skin cancer, and between 20,000 and 25,000 will die from the disease.

- Skin cancer is the second fastest increasing malignancy in the United States. Only lung cancer in women is growing at a faster rate.

- Estimates suggest one of every seven Americans will develop skin cancer during his or her lifetime.



GETTING SOME RAYS

People who have suffered severe sunburn are far more likely to develop skin cancer. Individuals at high risk are those with fair skin, blonde or red hair, freckles, or an inability to tan.

Chicago freelance writer Paul Martin wrote *Sleep Tight All Night* (February).



How To Save Your Skin

THE American Academy of Dermatology emphasizes these guidelines for preventing skin cancer:

- Stay out of the sun when possible.
- Wear protective clothes and a hat.
- When you must be in the sun—even if it's only for 15 to 20 minutes—always use a sunscreen with a sun protective factor (SPF) of at least 15.
- Apply sunscreen liberally. Studies show that most of us are too sparing with sunscreen, applying about half what's needed to protect our skin.
- Reapply sunscreen after going in the water or perspiring.
- Be careful around highly reflective surfaces such as snow, sand, concrete and water, which nearly double your exposure.
- Avoid tanning salons and sun lamps. They are dangerous no matter what the salon proprietors say.
- Minimize your children's exposure to the sun and begin applying sunscreens as early as six months of age. There are sunscreens on the market especially formulated for a child's delicate skin.
- Certain medications and cosmetics, as well as birth control pills, might increase your sensitivity to the sun. Consult your doctor before going out into the sun.

—PM

- Women under 40 are developing the disease much more frequently than men in the same age group.

- More than 40,000 persons will be diagnosed with melanoma in the next 12 months.

- People are developing skin cancer at younger ages.

There are three types of skin cancers: basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and malignant melanoma. Cancer strikes when cell growth becomes uncontrolled and accumulates to form tumors. Benign tumors can occur in many organs and often appear on the skin. These tumors are not dangerous. It's crucial to diagnose the growth accurately, and a biopsy is critical when there is any question in diagnosis.

"Ten years ago I had a squamous cell cancer on the left side of my head in front of the temple," says Jerry Brown. "It looked like a wart. The surgeon cut it out, and I haven't had any problems since." Brown, 65, lives in Phoenix, Arizona, and takes normal precautions in the sun.

A child or adult who has suffered

The beautiful tans of yesterday leave their imprints in premature aging, wrinkles and skin cancer.



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS "If there is any question about a growth after it is removed, it should be examined under a microscope." Dr. George Engel.

severe sunburn is far more likely to develop skin cancer because already damaged skin is more vulnerable. Sunshine alters the molecular structure of the skin. It damages the collagen, the main supporting substance.

Basal cell cancer is the most common of all skin cancers. It affected Ronald Reagan, Nancy Reagan and George Bush. Both basal cell and squamous cell are more common than the aggressive and dangerous melanoma. Although they might be found anywhere on the body, skin cancers most often appear on sun-exposed areas such as the scalp, shoulders, face, arms and hands. The edges of the ear also are high-risk spots. One saving factor in skin cancer is that one knows something is there.

A native of San Angelo, Texas, George Tankey, 76, had spots on his forehead and left ear that would not heal. "Finally, after watching them for six months, my doctor removed a portion of my ear and of my forehead. He says they were benign but might have become malignant."

"Early detection is critical because, if identified in time, skin cancer can be

cured, usually with little or no scarring," says Asanee Lertsburapa, a dermatologist in Berwyn, Illinois. "A cancer or malignant tumor invades and destroys tissue locally. However, it can also spread through the bloodstream or the lymph system to distant areas of the body. Fortunately, most skin cancers do not spread via the blood or lymph systems."

At least 90 percent of skin cancers are caused by cumulative sun exposure. At high risk are those with fair skin, blonde or red hair, blue or green eyes, freckles, sensitivity to the sun or an inability to tan, large or numerous moles, and a family history of melanoma.

Writing in *The New York Times*, Aug. 6, 1997, Jane Brody said, "Someone born today is more than 12 times as likely to develop melanoma as someone born in 1950. The main reason for this explosive growth is overexposure to sunshine. The body parts on which melanomas now develop most often, the legs and the back for example, are those that in years past were covered when people ventured outdoors."

"In all three types of skin cancer, the active ingredient in the sunlight is ultraviolet radiation, the high-energy rays that are capable of deranging the molecular structure of DNA," says Dr. Engel. "The skin then stretches, forming a spider network of fine lines around the corners of the eyes and mouth, on the forehead and around the neck. As years pass, the skin continues to stretch, dries out and sags. The beautiful tans of yesterday leave their imprint in premature

aging, wrinkles and skin cancer."

For those who enjoy the sun—golfers, fishermen, joggers, hikers—it makes sense to use a sunscreen and protective clothing. It's never too early to begin using sunscreens. Dr. Robert Stern and two co-workers at Harvard found regular use of a sunscreen with a protective factor of 15 during the first 18 years of life could reduce a person's lifetime risk of common types of skin cancer by 78 percent.

Another point to recognize is the connection between sun exposure and cataract formation. The study is reported in the December 1988 *New England Journal of Medicine*. It involved 838 men who worked on New England's Chesapeake Bay, ranging in age from 40 to 94, with a mean age of 53. Investigators found a clear association between the degree of ultraviolet exposure and the risk of cortical cataracts. The men in the study worked on the Chesapeake Bay as fishermen. The principal investigator, Hugh R. Taylor, noted, "If you're out in the sun, and there's enough sun for you to get suntanned or a sunburn, you should protect your eyes. A little ultraviolet light is bad for you; a lot is worse. Relatively inexpensive aviator-style sunglasses, which curve around the eye area, are extremely effective in cutting ultraviolet exposure to a minimum."

The good news for sun-damaged skin is Retin-A. Although this gel has been publicized for making the skin look younger, evidence indicates that it also reverses pre-cancerous skin lesions. But the price of survival is constant vigilance.

"I've spent a lot of time in the sun and have had trouble with pre-cancerous spots on my face and hands," says Frank McKibben, a 68-year-old Denver lawyer. "I had four of them removed in the last year and have regular check-ups by my physician. So far I've been lucky."

It cannot be emphasized too strongly that if there is a suspicious-looking growth on the skin, run to a qualified physician for examination and appropriate treatment. It is important to emphasize the word *qualified*, that is, a physician who is skilled in diagnosing and treating skin cancer.

The good news is that skin cancer can generally be cured with little or no scarring, if diagnosed early and treated by a clinician experienced in diagnosis and treatment. However, if diagnosed too late or treated by an unqualified physician, skin cancer can be fatal. □

Personal Checklist

TO AVOID skin cancer, it is important to regularly examine your skin and check any moles or growth for danger signs by using the **A-B-C-D** test.

ASYMMETRY Is one half like the other?

BORDER IRREGULARITY Does it have an uneven, scalloped edge rather than a clearly defined border?

COLOR VARIATION Is the color uniform or does it vary from one to another? From tan to brown to black? Or from white to red to blue?

DIAMETER LARGER THAN 1/4 INCH At its widest point is the growth as large as or larger than a pencil eraser?



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CFA FORMS NEW COMMITTEES

THE Citizens Flag Alliance has renewed its push for a flag-protection amendment by forming executive committees in Washington, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Maryland, Utah and Connecticut. The committees will consolidate efforts among CFA member organizations in these states to encourage senators to follow the will of their constituents and support a flag-protection amendment. "Our mission is simple: educate senators from these states on the facts surround-

ing the flag-protection debate," says CFA Executive Director Marty Justis. Those facts include that 49 state legislatures have passed memorializing resolutions asking Congress to propose the amendment, the House of Representatives passed an amendment, and polls consistently show 80 percent of Americans believe the flag deserves special protection.

Since the flag-protection amendment, **House Joint**

Resolution 54, passed in the House last June by a vote of 310-114, the measure has awaited introduction in the Senate. The bill, **Senate Joint Resolution 40**, was introduced by Utah Republican Orrin Hatch

and Georgia Democrat Max Cleland on Feb. 4. At press time, 57 members of the Senate have signed on as co-sponsors.

Each state executive committee comprises representatives from several of the 125 national member organizations of the CFA, which represent more than 20 million Americans. Membership includes civic, fraternal, veteran, minority and business or-

ganizations such as The American Legion, Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, the American Legion Auxiliary, AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America, the National Grange and the Knights of Columbus.

"The American flag stands for the basic right of all citizens to hold their own views, express their own religious beliefs, and even say hateful things about the flag itself," Justis says. "But society has the right to prohibit certain actions that are blatantly disrespectful. To that end, the Citizens Flag Alliance plans to continue working in support of a constitutional amendment which would return to the American people the right to protect their flag." □



Network Cares For Ailing Kids

WHILE charitable giving might be taking some hard knocks in certain segments of society, such is not the case for members of the world's largest veterans' organization.

"Our new alliance with the Children's Miracle Network underscores The American Legion's mission and reputation as a caretaker of America's future—its children," says National Commander Anthony G. Jordan. That alliance was created with **Resolution 9** (Children & Youth), passed at the 1997 Spring Meetings of the National Executive Committee.

CMN adheres to the philanthropic principle that 100 percent of the funds raised in a community must stay in that community. All monies raised directly benefit the

seven million children treated annually by CMN-member hospitals. These 165 children's hospitals nationwide treat children with all afflictions and render care regardless of a family's ability to pay. Last year alone, CMN-affiliated hospitals provided \$2.5 billion in charity care.

National Commission on Children and Youth Chairman Elmer Fuhrhop encourages Legionnaires to heed the CMN

motto: "Help Hospitals Help Kids! Support the Children's Miracle Network."

"Members of The American Legion are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children," Fuhrhop says. "We are honored to join with the Children's Miracle Network in this worthy effort to become 'CMN Champions' for children." □



**Children's
Miracle Network**

KOKODA TRAIL HERO DEAD AT 82

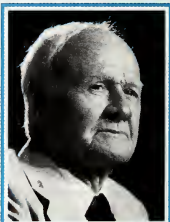
ON Nov. 26, 1997, Lt. Col. Meredith Miller Huggins, 82, died.

As a 27-year-old captain, Huggins commanded companies of the 3rd Bn., 126th Inf. Rgt., 32nd Div., against Japanese forces along the Kokoda Trail in New Guinea. The Imperial Japanese forces hoped to take Port Moresby and then launch an assault on Australia. The operation is partially recounted in "Welcome to the Jungle" (THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, September 1992).

Past National Commander Dominic D. DiFrancesco praised the accomplishments of Huggins and his fellow soldiers in April 1992, placing a memorial at "Huggins Road Block" between Buna and Gona.

A graduate of the Oregon State University ROTC program, he served 10 years in the infantry. His awards included a Presidential Unit Citation, a Distinguished Service Cross, a Silver Star, a Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts.

Huggins is survived by his brother, Charles; sister, Donna Clark; daughter, Meredith Gilley; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. □



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MILLER HUGGINS**

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NATIONAL CEMETERY BENEFITS AVAILABLE

MORE than two million Americans have been buried in national cemeteries. Rick Arndt of the National Cemetery System says burial in a national cemetery is an honor, one made easier with a little preparation.

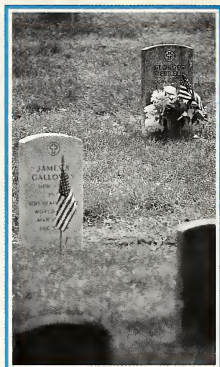
If a veteran wishes to be buried in a national cemetery, Arndt suggests that veteran should communicate those wishes to the family. Grave sites cannot be reserved before death, so when a veteran dies, the family should notify the national cemetery immediately to put arrangements in motion.

Eligibility must be established. Eligible veterans include: any member of the U.S. armed forces who died on active duty; a veteran whose discharge is under conditions other than dishonorable; and the spouse, widow/widower, and minor chil-

dren of an eligible active duty member or veteran.

The veteran's name, rank, serial, social security and VA claim numbers, date and place of birth and date of death must be provided to cemetery personnel. A copy of the veteran's official discharge document or DD 214 should be furnished. If this paperwork is not on hand, family members may ask the National Cemetery System to check with the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100.

The NCS then offers burial benefits to assist in the interment. Benefits, including grave site headstones or markers, opening and closing of the grave site and perpetual care, are provided at no charge to the family. Headstones are inscribed with the deceased's name, branch of service, year of birth and year of death. Veterans not buried in a national cemetery are still entitled to the government headstone.



JOHN E. HANON

of the NCS mission. "The second part of our mission is to maintain the national cemeteries as national shrines," says Arndt.

U.S. flags are provided for burial in a national, state or post cemetery, but requests must be made for burials in a private cemetery. Eligibility must be established by calling the VA regional office at (800) 827-1000, and filing VA Form 60-2088.

Finally, families can receive a Presidential Memorial Certificate, an engraved certificate signed by the president to honor the veteran's service. Requests can be made through any VA regional office, or by writing to: Memorial Programs Service (403A), National Cemetery System, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20420.

Additional information about national cemetery burials can be obtained by writing to: National Cemetery System, 810 Vermont Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20420; or on the Internet at www.va.gov/cemetery/index.htm. □

erans not buried in a national cemetery are still entitled to the government headstone. Next of kin must apply for the marker through the VA by filing Form 40-1330.

Opening and closing of the grave sites also are provided at no charge. Perpetual care of the grave site is part

ORANGE FLAG BESTOWED



THE EMPIRE STATESMEN, sponsored by William W. Doud Post 98 of Rochester, New York, won the orange flag in the 1997 competition for The American Legion Senior National Drum and Bugle Corps Championship in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Dr. Almo J. "Doc" Sebastianelli (second from left) led the effort to restore this competition after it was discontinued in the 1980s. Also on hand for the event were Past National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer (far right) and Past National Vice Commander Albert Robotti (third from right).

CORRECTIONS



TILFORD SALTER, pictured in February Legion News, is a member of Hammond Post 3, and has played Uncle Sam at the Kingsport, Tennessee, annual Independence Day parade for more than 40 years.

THE STAY WAY YOUTH PROGRAM was misidentified as Stay Away in January's Legion News. The Stay Way program helps kids stay in school, stay off drugs and stay physically fit. We apologize for any consequences of the errors.



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National POW Museum Dedicated

THE Civil War prison at Andersonville, Georgia, held over 45,000 Union prisoners—12,912 of whom died in little more than a 14-month period. By comparison, World War II's entire Pacific Theater tallied just 23 more POW deaths over four years.

After the prisoner exchange system broke down in 1863, Civil War-era prisoners, North and South, became increasingly cramped and unhealthy. Confederate prisoners died of disease and exposure at Camp Douglas and Camp Morton while other Union prisoners suffered in Richmond's Libby Prison. But Andersonville stands alone as the Civil War prison synonymous with hell.

It was here that Union POWs endured disease-infested swamps under the hot Georgia sun, starving and dying at a rate of nearly 100 a day. Walking the hallowed compound today, one can only imagine the horrors the prisoners endured.

Capturing the imagery of the POW experience is what planners of the National Prisoner of War Museum hoped to accomplish. Their undertaking to interpret the role of all prisoners of war and to commemorate their hardships led them to Andersonville and to construct the 10,000 square-foot museum just yards away from the infamous prison.

With the finishing touches coming together, superintendent of the Andersonville National Historic Site Fred Boyles set April 9 for the dedication ceremony—the anniversary of the fall of Bataan and the beginning of the Bataan Death March.



GRAND OPENING The National POW Museum honors prisoners living and dead, those who came home and those who did not.

"This event will be a gathering of eagles," says Boyles. "In the minds of many POWs, this memorial ranks in stature to the Iwo Jima Monument in Washington and the Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor. So the grand opening is being treated almost as a pilgrimage."

Roots for the project extend back to 1970 when Congress added the Civil War prison to the national park system. Construction on the museum began in July 1996 with more than half the funds coming from the sale of POW commemorative coins and private contributions (10,000 individual and 25 corporate and foundation donations). The state of Georgia contributed all materials and labor for construction of the site's one-mile entrance road.

Aided by a committee of former POWs, park service engineers designed a dark brick building topped with three granite towers. Visitors can view a 20-minute documentary, *Echoes of Captivity*. Retired Gen. Colin Powell narrates the video, which includes interviews with some high-profile ex-POWs, such as Arizona Sen. John McCain and the ambas-

sador to Vietnam, Pete Peterson.

Guests can then take the self-guided tour through thematic exhibits including "Capture," "Journey to Camp," "Living Conditions" and "Escape and Freedom."

An especially thought-provoking display is the "Sack of Cement Cross." The cross was built by World War II POWs at Camp O'Donnell in the Philippines. It resulted when Japanese soldiers gave the prisoners sacks of cement to build a monument to their dead. Years later, the monument was recovered and brought to the site.

On a recent visit to the museum and cemetery, National Commander Anthony G. Jordan said all Americans who visit the site will go away knowing America's veterans did their duty wherever they were. "Few places have captured the spirit of something so tragic," says Jordan. "May this place serve as a reminder of those who have sacrificed so much for their country."

For more information on the museum or dedication ceremony, call: (912) 924-0343.

LEGIIONNAIRES IN ACTION

FURNITURE City Post 258 of Grand Rapids, Michigan, has delivered fresh fruit to the local veterans' home for more than 25 years. Commander Janice Roy says the detail is headed by Jack Flanders, assisted by at least a dozen Post members each week.

Harry N. Cutting Post 59 of Waterbury, Vermont, assisted in the healing process when a fire left two Post members homeless.

Post 299 of Sharon, Pennsylvania, joined with the National Commander and National Adjutant to honor Dr. William E. Brown, Post surgeon, for his overall concern for human life, including three occasions on which he used life-saving methods on persons at the Post.

Post 1 of Jackson, Mississippi, donated more than 270 American flags for veterans' graves in the Mississippi towns of Florence, Pearl, Jackson and Clinton.

Post 372 of Blackduck, Minnesota, honored William "Bill" Balsiger for creating a 3 foot by 3 foot stained glass version of The American Legion emblem for their Post home.

Post 42 of Utuado, Puerto Rico, honored Sgt. Rolando Cabañas Valls for building and donating an annex to the Post home, valued at more than \$87,000.

Lithuanian Post 154 of Baltimore, Maryland, and **Francis Scott Key Post 11** of Frederick, Maryland, have participated in a recycling project. To keep textbooks out of landfills, the learning materials have been donated to Lithuania to replace old, anti-American books from the days of Soviet occupation.

FIGHTING LADY

Continued from page 26

heroes such as Audie Murphy and Jimmie Doolittle.

A room on the second deck is dedicated to The American Legion, introducing visitors to the organization's history. "We are attempting to briefly show The American Legion's place in our past, present and future, and the Legion's impact on veterans and communities," says Mac McGee, chairman of the Legion room committee for the Department of South Carolina.

Artifacts exhibited in four display cases include the Legion emblem and preamble, Boys State pictures, child welfare trophies, South Carolina Department medals, hats and pins and the Legion and American flags. Department American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion have two additional cases.

"Visiting the Yorktown piques a lot of peoples' interest, and that helps us with recruiting," says Post 6 Commander Frank Whille, a Korean War veteran. "But more importantly, it helps educate young people. People leave here with a sense of patriotism and respect for veterans who made their freedom possible."

Next on the agenda for Patriots Point is expansion to permit more of a theme-park approach. Flatley says plans include a memorial park, sports center and hotel complex. He envisions an educational setting coupled with a recreational feel to provide visitors with an unforgettable experience.

"Foremost, the museum is designed to leave each visitor with some appreciation of the contributions fellow Americans have made throughout the nation's history," says the admiral. "We hope to expand on this."

Like young Willis and McDonald, Flatley was first introduced to Yorktown as a child. His strong affection for the carrier stems not only from his own naval service, but also from that of his father, who once served as Yorktown's air group commander. His pride is most evident when he stands on the hangar deck in front of an F6F Hellcat flown by his father, Vice Adm. James H. Flatley. The plaque accompanying the aircraft, complete with photograph, reads: "CDR Jimmy Flatley on the wing of Hellcat #00, after making the first landing on USS Yorktown CV-10, May 6, 1943." □

—By Julie A. Rhoad

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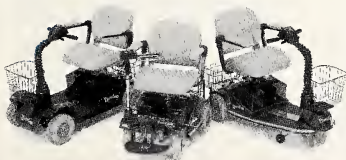


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'99 VA Budget Kind of a Drag

VETERANS with tobacco-related health conditions face having their claims for disability compensation and medical care snuffed under the proposed VA budget for FY 1999.

"The government is responsible for health problems linked to military service," says American Legion National Commander Anthony G. Jordan, responding to one part of the administration's proposed spending plan, unveiled Feb. 2. "VA's General Counsel's precedent opinion [1993] on service-connected tobacco-related diseases is right on target. The government should be held accountable for its actions or failure to act."

The VA anticipates a large influx of claims would increase its backlog and cause delays. The VA General Counsel in 1993 held that claims for service-connection of smoking-related disability or death were possible.

Jordan cites The American Legion's position, which opposes the denial of veterans' claims for VA disability compensation for health reasons. The Legion's chief spokesman says the VA should not put its fiscal and operational priorities ahead of veterans.

Overall, the administration seeks \$43.2 billion for the VA in FY 1999, which begins Oct. 1, 1998. Of that, \$17.7 billion would go for VA health care. VA must collect \$700 million of this from third-party reimbursements. The American Legion asked for \$18.2 billion for medical spending in FY 1999.

The administration's legislative proposal to deny compensation for tobacco-related disabilities would restrict service-connected compensation benefits to veterans whose tobacco-linked illnesses that developed after military service and were caused solely by tobacco use during active duty. VA budget planners claim that savings in FY 1999 from this restriction

would be about \$741 million and project a savings of \$17 billion over the next five years. VA predicts more than 2.5 million veterans will file tobacco-related claims during the five-year period.

From those savings, the administration proposes a 20 percent rate increase for the Montgomery GI Education Bill and additional funding for veterans' job-training programs administered through the Department of Labor under Part C of the Job Training Partnership Act.

A major component of the spending plan would permit the testing of veterans in selected areas, who are not now eligible for free VA health care, to use VA medical centers with Medicare picking up the bill. "This is a key element of The American Legion's GI Bill of Health, which we expect will be introduced this year in Congress," Jordan says.

The Legion long has advocated that all veterans should be able to receive treatment in VA medical facilities if they so choose. "If managed properly—and The American Legion will insist upon such controls—these new patients will bring new revenue into the VA system without detracting from services for veterans eligible for free health care," the National Commander adds.

Also included in the VA budget are four new national cemeteries, 71 new outpatient clinics and full benefits for Filipino veterans residing in the United States whose benefits are at half the level of U.S. veterans.

The budget also projects a 2.2 percent cost-of-living adjustment for disability compensation recipients, including surviving spouses and children.

"America's veterans fulfilled their obligations to this nation with honor," Jordan says. "The American Legion will ensure that the nation honors its obligations to its veterans."

Enroll for Care

Veterans are reminded they must be enrolled in the VA health-care system by Oct. 1, 1998, to be treated at VA medical facilities. This mandate comes by way of the Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996.

Exceptions to this requirement include veterans who have a service-connected disability of 50 percent or more, veterans who have been discharged from the military service for less than a year for a compensable disability that the military determined was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty and which has not yet been rated, and veterans seeking care for a service-connected disability.

VA officials say that veterans who have received VA health care after Oct. 1, 1996, do not need to enroll and

that the department will automatically process their applications.

Delegates at the 1996 American Legion National Convention adopted **Resolution 141** (Maryland), supporting the intent of the VA program.

For more details contact your area VA medical center. The VA also has additional information on its web site at <http://www.va.gov/health/elig>.

Return of the Hoax

A long-time hoax that promises insurance dividends is back, this time targeting Persian Gulf War veterans.

The VA's Regional Office and Insurance Center in Philadelphia reports it is receiving numerous requests from Gulf veterans for a non-existent insurance dividend. For more than 40 years, the principal victims of this hoax have been World War II,

Korean and Vietnam veterans. They were told that VA would send a check for the mythical dividend to any veteran who requested it. The current hoax centers on holders of Servicemen's Group Life Insurance, or SGLI.

The phony applications claim dividends or refunds have been authorized by Congress. Chet Stellar, chairman of The American Legion's National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, says "There is no such legislation for veterans who do not keep their insurance in force, and no legislation has been proposed in Congress."

VA's legitimate insurance dividends are paid annually to policyholders, usually on the anniversary date of their policies. About 2.5 million veterans share in annual dividend distribution, and payments are automatic to those who continue to pay premiums. □

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The new driver is the creation of a former Naval Ordnance engineer who used to apply the material to the tips of torpedoes, and a small golf company in Connecticut. Together, they have adapted it to the hitting surface of a steel driver. They say

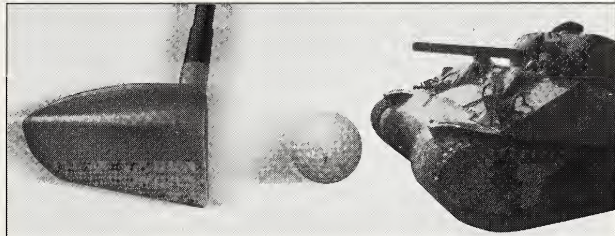
"The harder it's hit, the farther it goes."

their adaptation is proprietary and a patent has been applied for.

All the company will say is that the new metal is a sort of ceramic titanium, ceramic for hardness and titanium for strength and lightness. The material – called CT-20 – is twice as hard as steel and 70% harder than titanium. It whacks a ball with such force that at clubhead speeds of 120 MPH – the level of longball champs – the new club split the cover on some balls.

CT-20 also increases a golfer's accuracy by holding the ball on the face of the club four times longer than steel and titanium. This makes

off-center shots far less likely to hook or slice, and allows a good golfer to draw and fade the ball with more control. I watched a top Tour professional test the club at a PGA Tournament. Here's what he told me.



Once-secret CT-20 is used on shells to penetrate tanks and warships, and on spacecraft to withstand heat on re-entry. It is twice as hard as steel, 70% harder than titanium.

"I'm hitting the ball 30 yards past my driver and controlling it like a five-iron. You see all my competitors smiling at me? That's not admiration. It's worry."

The company's Research Director explained the club this way...

"It's basic physics. The harder you hit a ball, the farther it goes, and Condor® Armor-Pierce (the club's name) clobbers a ball like a battering ram. It not only launches it farther down range than any thing else on the market, its CT-20 face reduces a ball's normal spin rate. A lower spin rate keeps the ball flying longer and at a lower trajectory for a longer roll.

"Condor Armor-Pierce also reduces *abnormal* spins that cause off-center shots to hook and slice. That's why he's outhitting his titanium driver by 30 yards and controlling 300-yards shots like a five-iron. It's a pleasure to watch, isn't it?"

"You know who he is? (I said I did.) He loves the club. I wish he weren't tied up with a big company. He would shoot in the 50's with the

Condor Armor-Pierce. Imagine that on TV. Titanium drivers would be history before he changed shoes, especially at Condor Armor-Pierce's price."

The once-secret CT-20 is backed up by a stainless steel head the

same size as a titanium driver for maximum forgiveness. To maximize clubhead speed it comes with a 45-inch graphite shaft, or a new big butt Turbo/Tip™ graphite shaft with extra weight in the tip.

You can test the Condor Armor-Pierce for 30 days by calling 1-800-285-3900 any time or day or faxing 1-203-284-1623. Or you can send your name, address and check (or cc number and expiration date) to NGC Golf (Dept. TC-113), 60 Church St., Yalesville, CT 06492. The club cost only \$129.00 (a fraction of the cost of titanium clubs) and you can add the 3 and 5-woods for only \$109.00 each. Add \$20.00 to these prices for the new Turbo/Tip (big butt) shaft. Shipping is only \$10.00 no matter how large your order. Specify regular or stiff flex, men's or ladies', when you order. Right-handed only. There's a 30-day money back guarantee, if the clubs are returned undamaged.

Oh, yes. If you swing at 120 MPH, take some extra balls.

The Veterans' Connection

VETS® is a service that provides information about military reunions, helps veterans find old buddies and arranges reunions, travel and accommodations.

REUNION INFORMATION

This month there are 227 military reunions listed on these pages. In addition, VETS® has information on more than 12,000 other reunions. Call weekdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Central time. Normal long-distance charges apply. The average call takes three minutes.

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If you know the VETS® five-digit number assigned to your ship or unit, please give it to the operator. The number is printed after each outfit's name listed in the magazine. If you don't know the number or do not see your ship or unit listed in the magazine, VETS® operators can still provide you outfit information. Units enroll in VETS® daily.

PLANNING A REUNION

VETS® will help you arrange your outfit's reunion at no cost and save money in the process. Finders/Seekers® services are included free for VETS® managed reunions. VETS® also will maintain reunion coordinators' mailing lists and unit archives, and handle all reunion publicity needs. Tell us what you want, and we will do the work.

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Writer: Finders/Seekers®, P.O. Box 901, Columbia, MO 65205; or call (573) 474-4444. MasterCard/VISA and Discover accepted.

OUTFIT REUNIONS

Reunion coordinators can enroll their units in VETS® by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to VETS®, P.O. Box 901, Columbia, MO 65205. Unit names are published one time a year.

ARMY

- 1st Cav Assn, 1st Sqrn (Altich to: 1st Arm Div/Amical/101st A/B Divs) #19352
- 1st Cav Div, 8th Cav Rgt #16677
- 1st Inf Div, 16th Rgt, 2nd Bn, D Co (67-68) #13688
- 4th Arm, 129th/130th Engr (C) Bn, B Co (WWII) #28331
- 4th Inf Div, 1st Arm'd Cav, 2nd Sqrn (VN) #14407
- 5th Arm Assn (WWII) #13073
- 9th Inf Div, 15th Engr (VN) #23835
- 9th Inf Div, 39th Rgt, 3rd Bn (WWII) #23830
- 9th Inf Div, 47th Rgt, 3rd Bn, Riverine (VN) #23834
- 9th Inf Div, 47th Rgt, 4th Bn, Mobile Riverine (VN) #13758
- 9th Inf Div, 60th Rgt, 3rd Bn #23823
- 10th Mountain Division (SE Chapter) #23847
- 10th Trans Rgt, 125th Trans Bn, 396th Trans Co (Germany, 61-64) #23840
- 13th Pz Div (WWII) #28166
- 15th FA, 7th Bn (VN) #27784
- 17th Air Cav, 7th Arm'd Sqrn #22040
- 19th Engr (C) Rgt (WWII) #20558
- 23rd Recor (Panama) #23812
- 24th Inf, 19th Rgt, 3rd Bn/4th Rgt, 1st Bn (Korea) #11154
- 24th Inf Div, 11th FA Bn (Buckles-Weatherly Reunion, Korea) #21013
- 31st Inf Div, 15th Rgt, 1st Co (106th Rgt, 1st Bn (WWII) #15768
- 36th Engr (C) Rgt (WWII) #16469
- 42nd Inf Div, Tri-State Chapters (MN, IA, WI) #23789
- 45th Inf Div, 189th FA (Korea/VN) #15493
- 65th Div Hospital #21057
- 75th Inf Div Vets Assn #20652
- 77th Air Assn "En Garde Rgt" #13035
- 94th Air, 3rd Bn (Pershing Mail) #13670
- 98th FA Bn (Korea, 50-58) #16653
- 98th Air Div, 390th Rgt #15967
- 98th Inf Div (WWII) #12949
- 100th Gen Hospital (WWII) #10042
- 101st AB Div, 2nd/7th Bn, B Troop #23801
- 114th Engr Bn, Co A #23827
- 115th MP Co (activated May 58) #23849
- 120th AAA Gun Bn (WWII) #15598
- 128th AAA Gun Bn, 3rd Army, WWII #23785
- 142nd Field Army, 142nd Ord Hm Co #22834
- 223rd Inf Regt (Korea, 51-54) #21114
- 246th Engr (C) Bn (WWII) #28397
- 250th Engr Cmbt Bn (WWII) #16048
- 340th Engr Const Bn (Korea, 48-48) #12815
- 408th AAA Gun Bn & 367th Engr Const Bn (WWII) #15002
- 436th AAA AW Bn (WWII) #16014
- 452nd AAA AW Bn (WWII) #16863
- 480th Engr LP Co (WWII) #18600
- 49th Art Bn, Cos 238-233 (Guadalcanal/PI, WWII) #10313
- 527th Engr LI Ponton Co #16175
- 53rd EBR SR Rgt, all Cos #12586
- 561st FA Bn (WWII) #15687
- 566th AAA AW Bn (WWII) #15620
- 593rd EBR SR, Hq/Hq Co & Medics & Hqs Bn (WWII) #15586
- 613th FA Bn (PI) "Mars Task Force" #16035
- 717th DP Btry, A Co (Ger, WWII) #21147
- 741st Tank Bn #19508
- 742nd MP Bn "77 Deuce" (Korea, 50-55) #19111
- 802nd TD Bn Veterans Assn, Inc #16601
- 928th Engr Avn Grp (from SS) #19034
- 974th/975th FA Bn (WWII) #15314
- 3626th OM Truck Co (WWII) #11955
- American Division Veterans Assn, Arthur Wood SE Chapter #23801
- ASA Vietnam 5 East Asia #23834
- Christmas Island Task Force/ATC (WWII) #14148
- Class SC DM Refrig School (Bloomington IL, Aug 43) #23805
- HDS #8, 3rd Art, 8th Bn (Haw), Okinawa #23804
- HQ Co US Army Garrison, Championship Football (US Shofu AB, HI, 56-57) #23988
- Jolly Green Assn #13704
- MasterCard WAVES #23846
- River Assault Sq 111, River Div 111/112 #23826

Swirl Boats of Vietnam #23825
US Constabulary, 14th A/C Rgt #23828

NAVY

- 18th NCB (altich to 2nd Bn, WWII) #17835
- 101st Seabees #23821
- 118th NCB (WWII) #10228
- CRD #1547, NAS Trinidad (BWI, Jan 50-Jan 53) #23809
- CUB-10, NDB-3115 (New Guinea, WWII) #18673
- USS Boats (all boats, WWII) #18276
- LS (G) 442 (WWII) #10498
- LCS (L) 130 Nat Assn #30084
- LSM/LSMR Alt Assn #18552
- LST-1157 USS Tarral Co #13028
- LST-1170 USS Winchman Co (VN) #14784
- LST-344/515/848 (USS Blanco City, Parris, Jerome City) #23813
- LST-551 #14369
- LST-691 #21575
- LST-805/1032/1123/1165/1166 (Madera, Monmouth, Sedgewick, Washoe, Washtenaw) #22815
- LST-909 #19225
- LST-968/10225
- NAF Naha/TTACTS, Okinawa (VN era) #21251
- NAS Alameda, 1st Oper Officers Class, 43 #23845
- NMCS 40 (all eras) #18736
- NTC San Diego: Boat Co #23258
- Patrol Sqn B Alumi Assn (VP-B/VPML-B/VPB-201) #12548
- PBR's (WWII) #21567
- SC-1341 (WWII) #21302
- SC-303 Boat Pool Base (Okinawa, 45) #14878
- USN Armed Guard Vets (WWII) #19095
- USN Underwater Swimmers School #23841
- USS ABSD-8 #23833
- USS AC Assn #23837
- USS Alfred A Cunningham MD-752 #18136
- USS Allen M Summer DO-692 #17880
- USS Annetim CV/CVA/CV-36/CG-54 #17568
- USS ANSV-CV-57 #21031
- USS APL-31 (45-46) #23848
- USS Ashtari ARL-30 (VN) #22979
- USS Atlas PA-130 (WWII) #23814
- USS Basilio AC-48 (WWII) #11177
- USS Brinkley BMD-867 #11253
- USS Bristol DD-357 #23817
- USS Caddo LST #23814
- USS Caliente AO-53 #18485
- USS Champlain DE-149 (WWII) #20518
- USS Cheatham DD-38 #18071
- USS Compend AM-315 #15511
- USS Damato DE-871 #17520
- USS Diamondhead AE-19 (45-73) #13181
- USS Deberry DE-14 (23800)
- USS Essex CV/CV-90-2 #18567
- USS Fletcher (DE-157) #23839
- USS Fishery DE-135 #13816
- USS Formee DE-508 #23176
- USS Forrestal CVA/CV-AT-59 #18458
- USS George Washington SSBN-598 #23836
- USS Guadalcanal Group 22.3 (Escort Div 4) #13801
- USS Guadalupae AO-32 (all crews) #17729
- USS Hamlin AV-15 & Hq Sqrn, Fleet Air Wing 1 (WWII) #20685
- USS Harlan RDB-80B #18463
- USS Harriet CV-8 & CVA/CVA-12 #17950
- USS Hull HD-945 (61-63) #23398
- USS Hunt DD-971 (WWII, 51-63) #18437
- USS Ingraham DD-594/FG-61 #11203
- USS Jinks DE-665 #11715
- USS Lassen AE-3 #19274
- USS LST-742 #23842
- USS Marvin H. McIntire PA-129 #21253
- USS Memphis CL-13 #30114
- USS Miller DD-535 Assn #18017
- USS Monrovia AO-17 #14722
- USS Naylor C-40 #2828
- USS Nevada BB-36/SSBN-733 (incl Mar) #23832
- USS New Kent PA-217 (WWII/Korea) #14963
- USS Nitro AE/AC-23 #14668
- USS O'Brien SSN-17 #23439
- USS Drace/Revenge/Skirmish AM-103/110/303 #14240
- USS Oriskany CVA-34 (incl air grps) #10615
- USS Pandemonium ARL-16 #11214
- USS Patoka AO-3 #18519
- USS Plumett DD-431 (40-48) #18091
- USS Pope DE-154/USC Pillbury DE-133 #13815
- USS Pringle DD-477 #18684
- USS Rainier AE-5 (all yrs) #18722
- USS Rich DD-002-820 #19326
- USS Robert E Peary DE-132 (WWII) #13476
- USS San Francisco CA-38 Assn #17805
- USS Sangary AE-10/US Nitro AE-23 #23838
- USS Shofu AB, HI, 56-57 #11672
- USS Shaw DD-373 #18518
- USS Simpson DD-221 (WWII) #22039
- USS Smith DD-378 #18355

- USS Snook SSN-592 #23837
- USS Soley DD-707 Assn #18530
- USS Tafford DD-126/AF-15 #11713
- USS Tennessee BB-43 #21362
- USS Teton AGC-14 #23818
- USS Thompson DD-927/DMS-38 #17569
- USS Tortuga LSD-26 Assn #10436
- USS Tripoli CVE-64 (Korea, 52-56) #22432
- USS Vesuvius AE-15 (WWII) #17095
- USS Vigil AO-12 (60-61) #23801
- USS Weber DE-675/AD-75 #17406
- USS Whitley AO-4 #22831
- USS Wrangell AE-12 Assn #21917
- VP-13 (60-61) #23871
- USS Wyoming BB-32/EA-17 (WWII) #19195
- VC-70 Sqrn (pilots) #15043
- VC-82 Sqrn (board USS Tulagi CVE-72, WWII) #23345
- VP-123 #18163

AIR FORCE

- 1st Tac Depot Sqrn/2nd Avn Fld Depot Sq (NAAF/Air Force, England, 50-56) #14037
- 2nd Bomb Wing, 49th Bomb Sqrn (SAC, 47-63) #14010
- 38th Bomb Grp/Wing Assn (all yrs) #10990
- 31st FTS Air Force, McCord & Elmendorf, 49-59 #15108
- 387th Bomb Grp (MI, 557th Bomb Sqrn (MI), B-26 Marauders (WWII) #17630
- 655th ACW Sqrn, 3rd Fld AF, St. NV, #23832
- 735th ACW Sqrn (Fr, Morocco, SN-60) #11432
- 3450th Air Force Sqrn/Dth AF Train Riders Det #1 (Chelye, WY, 48-52) #23822
- 3520th Jt Maint Sqrn (Williams-Chandler AFB, 46-49) #23803
- Bombardier Alumni Assn #23800
- Det 9 (RBS), ICGE (Winslow, AZ, 59-63; St. George, UT, 53-71) #23831

ARMY AIR FORCE

- 2nd BAD Assn (Warren, Eng, WWII) #16867
- 3rd BAD Assn #14327
- 5th AF, 1st Ftr Cn Sqrn (WWII) #14000
- 27th Ftr Bomb Grp Assn (WWII) #15054
- 50th TC Wing, Hq/Hq Sqrn (WWII) #16898
- 64th TC Cn #10141
- 6th Ftr Sqrn, "Werewolves" (WWII, Desert Storm) #14858
- 93rd Bomb Grp, 430th Bomb Sqrn #15129
- 323rd Bomb Grp, 454th Bomb Sqrn #20448
- 368th Ftr Grp (WWII) #20982
- 380th Bomb Grp, "Flying Circus" (WWII) #30054
- 410th Bomb Grp Assn (WWII) #20298
- 430th TC Grp, 81st/82nd TC Sqrns #16986
- 464th Sig (H) Const Co (46-48) #23822
- 504th Bomb Grp Assn (WWII) #20859
- 506th Ftr (Jima, WWII) #11200
- 801st/492nd Bomb Grp, Spec Ops "Carpetbaggers" #10852
- 929th Sig Bn, A Co (WWII) #15086
- 1093rd Sig Co (SG, WWII) #16888
- Casper Army Air Field (WWII) #23237
- Moore AFB Co (WWII) #22754
- Tuskegee Airman Inc (WWII) #10016

MARINES

- 1st Mar Div, 11th Mar Rgt, HQ & Serv Bn, Radio Net Sec #23820
- 1st Mar Div, 1st Med Bn (WWII Corpsmen) #23820
- 1st Mar Div, 5th Rgt, Rgt, H Co (Pusan-Chechin, 50) #13405
- 5th Mar Div, 3rd Bn (Okinawa, 60) #23829
- 5th Mar Div, 5th Amphib Corp, 1150 mm Howitzer (WWII), Leyte #23806
- 120th Mar Network, 3rd Bn (WWII) #22113
- FMT Combat Med Assn (incl Navy) #12524
- MAG-11/12/14 (all yrs) #17166
- Mogave Desert Marines #23851
- VM-112, PBJ Sq, "Gram's Rams" (WWII) #17104

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American Merchant Marine Vets #17241

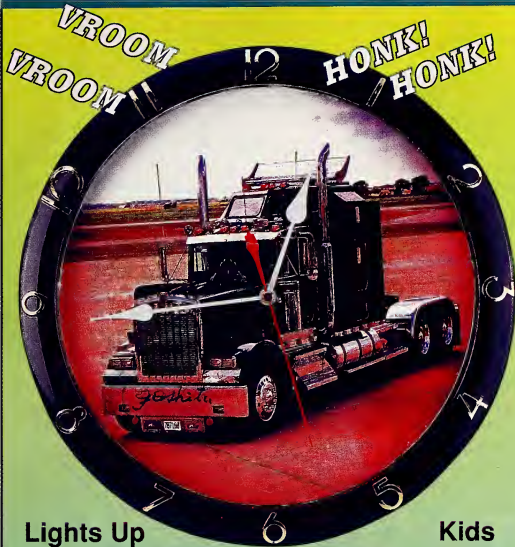
COAST GUARD

- 255 PI Class cutters (all yrs) #23810
- USS Sheboygan PF-57 #20372

MISCELLANEOUS

- Nagoya/Komaki Air Base (45-59) #22760
- New York State Coast War Veterans Assn #23799

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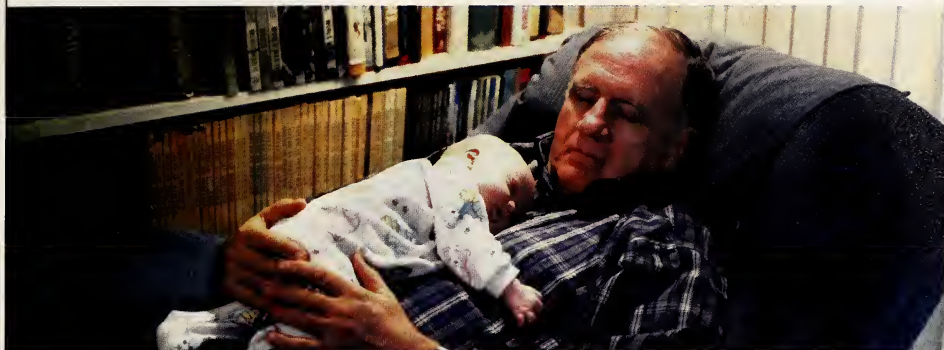
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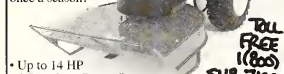


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Readers who can help these veterans are urged to write a witness letter, including the CID number. Send the letters to CID, The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Notices are published only at the request of American Legion Service Officers representing claimants using Search for Witness Forms available from Legion Department Service Officers.

Army, Co. B, 9th Armored Inf. Bn. Howard M. Williams made witness to verify that he was sent to the 2nd General Hospital in Nancy, France, for treatment of frozen feet, Dec. 26-29, 1944, CID #1389.

TAPS

Taps notices are limited to only those Legionnaires who have held high National or Department offices. We regret that we cannot extend the honor to all members.

Jack Howell, NV, Nat'l Pub. Commission Advisory Bd. (1964-65), Nat'l PR Commission (1966-84), Nat'l Legislative Council (1975-90), Alt. NEC (1981-92), Nat'l VA&R Commission Reg. 7 Chmn. (1984-85), Nat'l VA&R Commission Reg. 7 (1984-92), Dept. Vets. Prof. Chmn. (1961-62), Dept. M&PA Chmn. (1962-65), 1969-70, Dept. M&PA Co-Chmn. (1964-65), Dept. V. Cmdr. (1964-65), Dept. Cmdr. (1965-66), Dept. PR Chmn. (1971-86), Dept. Publications Chmn. (1975-77), Dept. Spirit of '76 Chmn. (1972-76), Dept. Naval Affairs Chmn. (1973-84, 1987-88), Dept. Leg. Chmn. (1978-77), Dept. Judicial Advocate (1980-81), Dept. Security Chmn. (1985-87), Dept. Military Affairs Chmn. (1987-93).

Ralph W. Clausen, SD, Nat'l M&PA Comm. (1961-62), Nat'l Commission on C&Y Midwest Area (1973-79), Dept. V. Cmdr. (1957-58), Dept. M&PA Chmn. (1961-62), Dept. Cmdr. (1963-64), Dept. C&Y Chmn. (1973-82), Dept. Bonded Child Welfare Officer (1977-79).

William J. Rich, CT, Nat'l Vets. Prof. Comm. (1956-57), Nat'l M&PA Comm. (1981-82), Nat'l Employment Comm. (1988-91), Dept. V. Cmdr. (1966-67, 1985-86), Dept. M&PA Chmn. (1985-86), Dept. Cmdr. (1986-87).

Robert K. Grabenbauer, SD, Nat'l M&PA Comm. (1963-64), Dept. M&PA Chmn. (1963-64), Dept. V. Cmdr. (1965-66), Dept. Cmdr. (1966-67).

Patrick M. Jacoby, OR, Nat'l Sec. Council V. Chmn. (1989-95), Dept. PR Chmn. (1985-86), Dept. Americanism Chmn. (1987-91, 1995-96), Dept. V. Cmdr. (1991-92), Dept. Cmdr. (1992-93), Dept. Economic Chmn. (1993-95).

Merrill E. Johnson, OR, Nat'l M&PA Comm. (1956-57), Nat'l Dist. Guests Comm. (1962-63, 1964-65), Dept. M&PA Chmn. (1959-60), Dept. Cmdr. (1960-61), Dept. Military Affairs Chmn. (1961-62), Dept. Accident Prev. Chmn. (1961-62).

IN SEARCH OF...

This column is for readers searching for groups of veterans for purposes other than forming a reunion (see VETS' column) or to find witnesses to verify VA health claims (use COMRADES IN DISTRESS column). No notices seeking information about relatives or friends will be published. Notices are published free, on a space-available basis. If a notice does not appear within six months of submission, please resubmit.

U.S. Army officers assigned to the 21st Inf. Div., Armed Forces of the Philippines defending Batangas during WWII until surrender in April 1942. Contact: Eugene A. Canapi, 2979 Perry Ave., Bronx, NY 10458.

Members of the Pine Camp Station Band (Watertown, NY) June 1942-August 1943. Contact: Paul Kliger, 825 W. Willow St., Louisville, CO 80027-1033.

Anyone who served in the 27th Army Div., 165th Inf. Reg., Co. G, 1941-45, and fought on Makin Island, Saipan and Okinawa. Contact: Alfred Mills, 161 Ocean Dr., South Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250-6343.

Anyone who served in the U.S. Navy's 2nd Beach Bn., WWII, North Africa to Okinawa. Contact: Michael Agnew, 5209 Gilpin Dr., Springfield, VA 22151.

Personnel who served in the 84th Med. Gas Tng. Bn., WWII, 1943-46. Contact: James Anderson, 522 Conner Dr., Fishers, IN 46038.

Members who served with Co. L, 325th Reg., 82nd Airborne Div. during the Bulge, Siegfried line to war's end. Contact: Pat Dunlop, 302 E. Sheridan Ave., Du Bois, PA 15801.

Personnel who served aboard the USS San Pedro, PF 37, 1943-46. Contact: James A. Lilly Sr., 1206 Hazel Ave., Pinole, CA 94564-1935.

Personnel who served in MCB 11 Det. to Eniwetok Island in June 1962. Contact: Gary Remington, 2898 Chapel Dr., Corvallis, OR 97333.

Permanent party members of AF Basic Training Sqdn. SB-12, later redesignated as BN-5, and later the 3735th Tng. Sq. of Lackland AFB, June 1946 to June 1949. Contact: Wayne M. Marks, 3 Ivy Ln., Long Valley, NJ 07853.

Anyone connected with the 701st Div., Co. B, 1st Arm. Inf., Ft. Hood, Texas, April 1951, who was involved in the Nevada testing grounds. Contact: John Manz Sr., 610 East Rd., Snelton, OH 45102.

Army and Navy doctors and nurses assigned to a duty station in Vietnam between 1965 and 1973 who volunteered for a survey seeking information about PTSD and readjustment problems which will lead to publication of the book *Mercy Warriors*. Contact: John Combs, 24016 E. Bobcat Rd., Astor, FL 32102-2616, or e-mail jodoco@toton.com.

Anyone who served in any unit of V Corps or XII Corps in Czechoslovakia, April-May 1945. Information wanted to help student research masters thesis. Contact: Bryan J. Dickerson, 6 Robertson Ct., Brick, NJ 08724-4334.

Personnel who served on the LSL 38, 1944-46. Contact: Alden L. Hougham, RR 2, Heyworth, IL 61745-9002.

Anyone assigned to the Korea Detachment, Broadcasting and Visual activity, Pacific, Seoul, Korea, APO 301 during 1960. Contact: Bobby L. Richards, PO Box 1504, Tracy, CA 95378.

Author in search of military personnel willing to relate UFO experiences. Contact: T.J. Lahn, 27 Brown Ln., Danville, VA 24541.

Personnel assigned to the 99th Signal Radar Maintenance Unit, 1944-45. Contact: W.C. Cooper, 18600 129 Place SE, Renton, WA 98055-7972.

Air Force personnel stationed at Erding Air Force Base, Erding, Germany, 1952-55. Contact: Jim Cannon, 609 Celito Dr., New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168.

Anyone stationed at Fort Benjamin Harrison, July-Nov. 1967, including BMJ classes. Contact: D.R. Keyworth, 608 San Vicente Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90402.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded Life Memberships by their Post.

Life Membership notices must be submitted on official forms which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Life Memberships, The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

E. T. Efstratis, Vincent G. Garramore (1998) Post 42, Marysville, CA.

John Cecchine, Milan D. Devecka, Casper Impicini, Walter Kiwall, Joe Kubasik, Steve Kubicki, Harold Wilson, Samuel S. Zanglia (1998) Post 391, Fredericktown, PA.

Chester Babor, Thomas Blaha, Stanley J. Bonczyk, Harold C. Buelow, Edward S. Ciz, Edward Kotopolski, Joseph G. Kuelo, Stephen Micka, Angelo Parrino (1997) Post 825, Chicago, IL.

Charles L. Varner, John M. Wolfred, Robert J. Ketchen, Steve Michael, Robert J. Slaber, George Stochi (1998) Post 925, Chicago, IL.

Alan F. Blackmar, (1997) Post 426, Pine Plains, NY.

Norman Vandal, Gerald Turquist, Nicolas Todisco, Anthony Rossi (1997) Post 397, Shrewsbury, MA.

Harry L. Gross Jr. (1997) Post 515, Latrobe, PA.

Jerry E. Mowry (1997) Post 113, Bedford, PA.

Lloyd H. Gray, Terry L. Greer, William J. Myers, Larry L. Shock, Robert E. Stevens (1997) Post 253, North Webster, IN.

Mario C. Buonpane, Allen Watkins (1997) Post 694, Northport, NY.

James T. Distler (1997) Post 103, St. Marys, PA.

David M. Nelson (1997) Post 161, Mishawaka, IN.

Kevin C. Genthner (1997) Post 360, Lake Arrowhead, CA.

Edward Yerga (1997) Post 430, Merrillville, IN.

John C. Catherine Sr., Eugene M. Christman, A.A. DeLallo, Joseph V. Grieco, John Orrico, William P. Vanemore (1997) Post 35, Jersey Shore, NJ.

Erwin L. Mithee (1997) Post 119, Guilford, ME.

Reynold Will (1997) Post 62, Sequim, WA.

Ray Patterson (1997) Post 393, Slippery Rock, PA.

Willis H. Doland, Richard H. Lampe, Henry F. Olendorf, Donald B. Stuart, R. Robert E. Wallace, Howard H. Williams (1999) Post 273, Bellevue, IA.

Mark G. Sims (1997) Post 828, Worthington, PA.

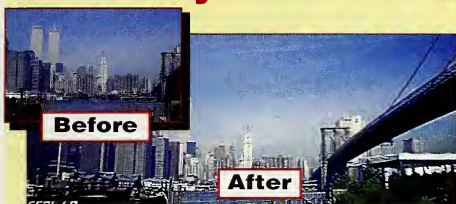
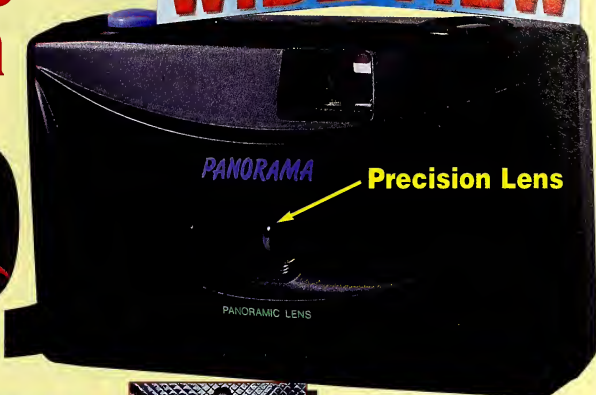
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HIGHWAY

Continued from page 37

because about the only difference between ours and yours is that yours shines and ours doesn't, but that is because you do not have much sunshine in Kansas."

The barb-slitting Lone Star State stood firm and distanced itself from any universal sign proposal—in 1960 and again when Bud Murphy made his rounds. Instead, Texas posted its own signs and did what no other state has done—displayed American Legion placards prominently every 10 miles or so.

Another feature distinguishes Texas among the half-dozen American Legion Memorial Highway states: It hosts the only large city on the highway—San Antonio. Approaching the metropolis, the rural route morphs into super slab, skyscrapers replace silos and there is enough traffic and people to induce an anxiety attack. Sanctuary from the urban expanse can be found within the walls of the San Jose Mission.

"Lead me not into temptation," reads the sampler in the office of Father Shaughnessy. "I can find it myself." Hung there by a man who knows. Clad in brown habit, triple-knotted cord, sandals and straw hat, the associate pastor

began a dialogue that needed little prompting. Highlights were accented with a deep, Herman Munster-like laugh, and draws off his cigarette marked the pauses.

"O.F.M.—Order of Friars—we work with the poor, the marginalized—those with AIDS or the homeless," Shaughnessy explains. "Not the Order of Fat Men or Out For Money." The fully ordained priest's delivery would make Jerry Seinfeld envious. The priest's story line, however, runs fathoms deeper.

Shaughnessy entered a preparatory seminary at 14 and remained devout for the next 21 years. The arrival of middle age stirred questions of identity, love and lust. Shaughnessy opted for a year's leave of absence from the church. The experiment quickly led to an annulment of vows and blossomed into a nine-year temporal odyssey.

Stints as a banker, a school principal and a department of mental health educator in Chicago opened Shaughnessy's eyes to the prospering flock of money worshippers. In his personal life, flings fizzled while one love affair led to thoughts of matrimony. After consulting his sister, Shaughnessy decided to wait. After six months, "it evaporated."

The experiment was hardly a failure; the results simply affirmed the hypothesis he made while just a lad. "I realized that I could have been something else besides a priest," he adds. "That an-

swered, I decided to return."

RESOLVED, *That The American Legion urges Congress and the states, the United States Justice Department and the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service to take necessary action to stop the invasion of illegal immigration in this country...*

Many miles south of the big city, the highway returns to its normal self: two lanes and sparse traffic. As U.S. 281 follows the Rio Grande east toward Brownsville, concern over moose crossing the border seems almost comical. Here, the concept of an unfortified border translates to the greatest interval between border patrol vehicles. They're easy enough to spot. Just look in the spaces usually reserved for state troopers.

We found Jerry Spruiell, border patrol supervisor, sitting comfortably in the humidity-laden 90-degree heat. Sipping a Coke and shelling sunflower seeds, he explained how the crossover game works: "Aliens come up and wait in the weeds, car pulls up, loads and in a minute they're gone." In fact, it's the overloaded cars for which he is looking.

The 26-year veteran admires the aliens' (Mexicans, Central Americans, Chinese, Palestinians and others) packing skills. Spruiell has seen as many as 12 in an average sedan—that's with three in the trunk—and more than 70 in a small moving van.

Spruiell believes the problem is more of a nuisance than a danger and tempers his sense of purpose with a touch of reality. "We'll shut 'em down, then they'll move someplace else," he says. "You can pass laws or whatever, but you'll never end it. You may slow it down, but never end it."

Illegal immigration might never end, but our trip must. In Brownsville, there was no Post home to celebrate the end of our trek down The American Legion Memorial Highway. So, with two bits and a push through a turnstile, we crossed a bridge over the "grand river," no wider than most of the creeks we passed. (Illegals would pay much more to cross the border with such ease.)

At the border crossing, one might expect to see a sign that said, "Thank you for traveling The American Legion Memorial Highway." To travel its length is to develop a profound respect for the route and the people who live along it. It is truly an over-looked gem in America's treasure chest, this long, winding and scenic roadway.

There is no sign—but there should be. Adios. □



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by Murry L. Broach - Staff Writer

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Every year Uncle Sam gives away hundreds of millions of dollars in cash, goods, and services to people just like you.

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FOR QUALITY

Continued from page 22

The school medal program is 76 years old, nearly the same age as The American Legion. Founded in 1921 by the Department of Pennsylvania, this program of character development was born of concern that little effort was being put toward the moral development of children. Legionnaires felt excellence of character entitled youngsters to just as much recognition as scholastic attainment.

Legionnaire Thomas Evans of Philadelphia proposed an award similar to Cecil Rhodes's Rhodes Scholarships, which honor students of academic excellence and proven integrity. Evans's dream became a reality in May 1921 when the Pennsylvania Americanism Commission agreed to the idea.

From a small beginning in Pennsylvania, the awarding of medals has grown into a nationwide effort. One hundred forty-five students received medals that first year. Today, that number is at 35,000 and growing.

Dr. Charles Vawter, chairman of the Legion's Education Committee and an educator on the college level, says endorsing the actions of children who do the right thing will encourage this behavior for the future. "We seem to be failing on character education," explains Vawter. "Rather than pointing a finger when children do wrong, we must praise those who do good and spread the message that being a good citizen is admirable."

Vawter says this is an excellent way for Legionnaires to help ensure that a 100 percent Americanism prevails. □

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LIFE'S MULLIGAN

Continued from page 33

a pro golfer to find outside motivation. You can train and get into better shape for your spouse, or to improve in any recreational activity.

That's not to say the opportunity to make money isn't great. It's exciting. And with the Senior Tour, top golfers are now in a situation similar to other fields, where a person with 20 or 30 years of experience gets a chance at peak earnings. But it's not *just* about money. Getting to compete against great golfers—in front of galleries and on TV—is another big motivation.

Q. What are the major differences you've found in the Senior Tour versus the regular PGA circuit?

A. It's funny, but I know a lot more people here than on the regular tour. The locker room is full of familiar faces, people like Miller Barber, Don January, Bruce Crampton, Lee Trevino, Al Geiberger and others. These guys held together the tour when I joined in 1974.

But today's regular tour is very different from that time. At that level, golf has become a very physical game. With the longer courses, strength and distance off the tee is critical. And while it's hard to explain, I found the senior game takes a much bigger adjustment than I imagined. The courses might be shorter, but the way the holes are set up makes it tough to score. It takes a lot of finesse.

Q. From the early '90s until recently, your game slipped.

A. There were good reasons I didn't play well, and because of them I have no regrets. From 1992 to 1995, I was well under \$100,000. But I coached my boys' soccer and baseball teams and spent a lot of time with my family. I worked on golf course designs and other ventures. And then I jumped from \$40,000 in 1995 to \$300,000 in 1996, and did well on the regular tour in the first half of 1997. The difference was conditioning.

Q. What else is different this time?

A. For the first time in more than 20 years I can concentrate completely on golf. [My son] Drew played on the Hooters Tour last year and is taking a shot at the regular tour's qualifying school. Josh is on his way to Auburn University. Also, Gayle can

travel with me and enjoy some of the fabulous locations where the senior tournaments are held. For both of us, this will be much more enjoyable.

Q. Quite a few golf journalists figured you'd come out here and immediately smoke the senior field. What were your goals?

A. That's right. Even though there were a limited number of events left in 1997, I said that I wanted to make the Top 31 on the senior money list, which would qualify me for the Senior Tour Championship at the end of the season. That would mean earning about \$400,000. After four events I'm halfway there.

Q. You're frequently asked whether facing a 16-foot putt to win or lose on the 72nd hole is more pressure-packed than getting shot at in Vietnam. To a non-golfer, comparing a sport to death seems awfully silly. But golfers can imagine missing an easy putt and losing the Masters in front of thousands of spectators and millions of television viewers and....

A.and then you've got to live with the failure. And sure, that's not much fun. Still, competitive golf is a lot easier than walking through a rice paddy and seeing an AK-47 shooting at your head. The oddest thing is that under most circumstances, I feel the least pressure inside the ropes.

On the golf course, you're just trying to do what you're supposed to do—mechanically make a good shot. That's kind of what I did in Vietnam, just focusing on the job I needed to do in the best way I knew how. That way, you don't think of the pressure.

Q. Do you have a built-in fan base among veterans?

A. Every so often Vietnam vets come up to me and say that they appreciate how I talk openly about my experience. Vietnam certainly had a big impact on my life, but it affected different people in different ways. I think most who served in Vietnam came back and got on with normal lives. Some didn't, and those you hear about and read about.

Q. Despite the fact that you were only 21, did you fully appreciate getting a second chance in 1968?

A. Oh, completely. There were many times when I didn't think I'd survive to see my 22nd birthday. When my flight lifted off from Cam Ranh Bay, it was like a huge weight was off

my shoulders.

Q. Have the years changed your views of Vietnam and the war?

A. Well, I never considered not going. I was raised to believe that you honored your obligation to serve your country. My mother lost her first husband in World War II. My father served in World War II. And I've got a lot of other relatives who were veterans. So at the time, I never asked whether we were right or wrong.

Heck, I still get chills when I see the American flag or hear the national anthem. So, when your country asks you to go, that's the price you pay for freedom.

Q. Speaking of prices—since you're in the course development business—hasn't golf gotten awfully expensive for the average guy?

A. Yes, and it's a very tough issue for the golf industry. Until the last decade or so, golfers had to either join a country club, or hustle to get a tee time at municipal courses that are often crowded and not in good condition. There wasn't much in the middle of the road. But today, we're seeing more and more "daily fee" courses, which are a little more upscale and give you a good golfing experience.

Q. What is it about golf that attracted you before you started making a living as a pro?

A. I think because it's one of those activities that you can do with other people, because golf has a great social element, or which is just as much fun by yourself. When I first started playing, I usually went out by myself, just me against the course and imaginary competitors. I used to fish a lot while growing up, and it's very similar.

Q. What kind of advice can you give to the duffers of the world?

A. Ideally, it would be learning the right way to play golf when you're a beginner. When I started, I really tried to learn Ben Hogan's fundamentals. They're found in just about every great golfer's swing. I didn't try to mimic him but wanted to work his fundamentals into what I was doing. I later found the game was a good fit for my competitive personality.

Q. But it's possible?

A. Sure. And that's another one of the great things about this game. In golf, with a lot of work and a little luck, almost anything is possible. □

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WE'RE BACK

Continued from page 24

will create a hodge-podge of flag-protection statutes. Instead, Congress can create one uniform statute for the entire nation. I believe we ought to let the American people decide this matter [through the ratification process]."

Nationwide polls conducted in recent years consistently show that between 70 and 80 percent of citizens support passage of the amendment.

A minimum of three-fourths of the states—38—is required for ratification of a constitutional amendment. Rep. Gerald Solomon, a New York Republican who steered the amendment through the House in 1997 and 1995, has predicted state legislatures will act swiftly to ratify the amendment if given the opportunity.

Once the amendment is ratified by the states, Congress then can write a federal flag-protection law.

Meanwhile, members of The American Legion family and the CFA are working throughout the country to raise awareness of the issue and to encourage citizens to write and call their senators. Earlier this year, the Legion unveiled the *Show Your Colors, America!* campaign, which, in part, urges all Americans to fly Old Glory every day from Memorial Day weekend until the Senate passes the amendment. Legionnaires and CFA members throughout the country also are organizing events geared to promote the amendment and to educate citizens on the history and handling of Old Glory. For more information on the *Show Your Colors, America!* campaign, call 1-800-424-FLAG.

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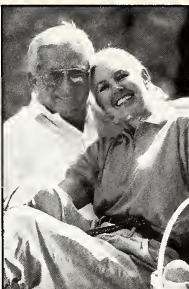
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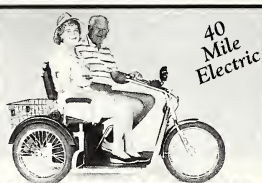
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BOILING POINT

Continued from page 39

you've got a fat man and a thin man, and the boat is going to capsize, who has to lose weight first? There is a very strong moral and ethical argument for the fat guy going first. If the United States—the most powerful nation in history—doesn't care about the future of the entire planet, who else is going to care?"

Such passion is accelerating the campaign for government-enforced limits on greenhouse-gas emissions. One possible "solution," offered by environmental groups such as Earth Action, is a global tax to fund environmentally friendly technologies and energy sources.

But Forrester says the administration prefers an international system whereby permits for greenhouse-gas emissions can be bought and sold. Although details are sketchy, the WorldWatch Institute says it could mean a "trillion dollar cash transfer" from the United States and other industrialized nations to the developing world so that we could keep our coal plants and cars.

Failing Senate ratification, a 1994 memorandum leaked from the Environmental Protection Agency suggested that President Clinton could act on his own. One proposal, designed to discourage oil consumption and reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, was to hike gas taxes by 50 cents a gallon. Such action, the memo said, could be taken under the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 which allows the president to "adjust imports," such as foreign oil, when national security is threatened. However, the memo warned that would be "politically unpopular."

And it remains to be seen how much political capital President Clinton will use on a treaty that could prove to be just as unpopular. □

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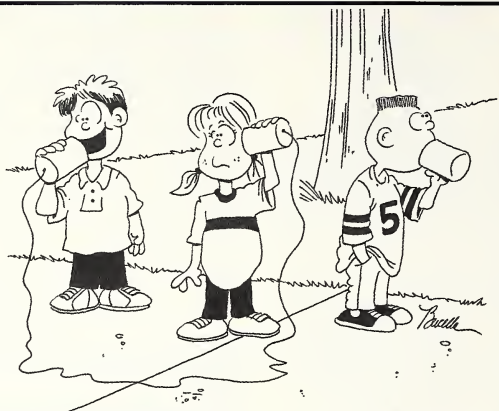
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Those crisp color-on-white vertical stripes have a trimming, slimming effect!

Terrific with a sport shirt, they go to the office with equal aplomb — just add a blazer and tie! Expertly tailored with all the quality benchmarks you expect:

- Tough, durable nylon zipper
- Four big No-Hole pockets
- Ban-Rol® no-roll waistband
- Premium woven polyester and cotton pinCORD fabric
- Tropical weight for summer comfort
- 100% automatic machine wash and dry. Imported.

PINCORD SLACKS

2 FOR 29⁹⁵

3 for 43.75
4 for 57.50

Haband 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Peckville, Pennsylvania 18452

WAISTS: 30 32 34 35 36

37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44

Big men's please add

\$3 more each for:

46 48 50 52 54

INSEAMS:

27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

Send _____ pairs of slacks and _____ shirts. I enclose \$_____ purchase price, plus \$3.95 toward postage and insurance. GA residents add sales tax.

☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Visa ☐ Discover Card ☐ MasterCard

Card # _____

Exp.: ____/____/____

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. _____

Mail Address _____

Apt. # _____

City & State _____

Zip _____

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed or Full Refund of Purchase Price at Any Time

PINCORD SLACKS

	7TW-ONK	What Waist?	What Inseam?	How Many?
A	BLUE			
C	TAN			
D	BLACK			
F	BERRY			

MATCHING SHIRT \$15 each

	7TW-1JT	WHAT SIZE?	HOW MANY?
A	BLUE		
J	TAN		
B	BLACK		
F	BERRY		

Matching Golf Shirt \$15 each

Cool, crisp and light weight. A perfect match to the slacks. 2-tone, short-sleeved shirt has 4-button front placket, neat collar and 2 chest pockets. Airy cotton/polyester pique-knit keeps you cool all day and is 100% Wash & Wear! Imported.

Only \$15 each. Hurry!

SIZES: S(34-36) M(38-40)

L(42-44) XL(46-48)

BIG MEN'S TOO!

2XL(50-52) 3XL(54-56)



blue



black

berry

For fastest possible service call 1-800-742-2263 Order 24 hours a day, 7 days a week